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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a proposal to impose a new \$6.50 charge on each airline passenger arriving in the CNMI?

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INSIDE



Guilty!

Former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich is convicted of corruption charges.

NATION...Page 14



Arrest Warrant

The International Criminal Court issues an arrest warrant for Moammar Gadhafi.

WORLD...Page 16



Grown Up

Shia LaBeouf learned how to play on action-movie sets, which may help explain why he's often ready for a fight.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Directory of local farmers and produce buyers in the works. **PAGE 2**
Penalty fees for traffic violations could sharply increase. **PAGE 3**

UNLESS RESULTS ARE TOO DIFFERENT

No conflict seen in doing 2 separate wage surveys

» Chamber asks Fitial, SEDC on visa for retirees, help for workers displaced by global trade



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, gestures as he talks to acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar, right, after a closed-door meeting of the governor's Strategic Economic Development Council in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

Police consider underwater search

» Disappearance marks fifth week today

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is mulling an underwater search as the mysterious disappearance of sisters Faloma and

Maleina Luhk enters its fifth week today, Wednesday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that DPS is considering doing an underwater search for the Luhk sisters.

"But this is largely dependent on the weather and the level of visibility. The department has not disclosed any further details on this matter," Demapan said.

"Operation Hope" had local and federal authorities doing ground searches for weeks, while a helicopter from the

See **POLICE** on Page 4

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

There are no foreseen conflicts arising from having two prevailing wage surveys that will be done separately by the CNMI government and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce—unless the results are markedly different from the other.

But Chamber president Douglas Brennan said they don't expect results to be different because they will be surveying basically the same job classifications.

"At the end of the day, it will be a great double check if the CNMI survey and the Chamber survey come up within pennies of each other. Everybody's going to be happier," Brennan told *Saipan Tribune*.

See **SURVEYS** on Page 4

THE FALOMA AND MALEINA PARENT NOTIFICATION ACT OF 2011

Bill wants parent told ASAP about absent child

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

A newly pre-filed bill seeks to require schools to immediately notify parents or legal guardians of absent students, instead of waiting for the second or third day of absence to help speed up rescue efforts for missing children. This comes in the wake of the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk.

See **BILL** on Page 4

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Local

Directory of local farmers and produce buyers in the works

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Acting Agriculture director Manny Pangelinan is urging all farmers and local produce buyers to get listed in the 2011 CNMI Crop Producer and Buyer Directory.

The 2011 CNMI Crop Producer and Buyer Directory will provide information on local farmers and their contact information, farm plot physical location, producer status (whether a commercial or a subsistence farmer), the type of agricultural products grown and its availability.

The directory will also include other information such as location of farmers' markets, operation hours, if they accept food assistance programs, and the various local vendors that distribute fresh local produce, specialty crops, and other agricultural products.

Pangelinan said in an interview that updating the directory is among the projects included in the \$120,000 grant they received from the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Other projects that are part of the grant are mainly "marketing and promotional materials"

which include the "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" signage on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; posters to be conspicuously placed in government and private buildings; and bumper stickers that would promote agricultural production in the CNMI.

This particular project, Pangelinan said, is "to create a crop directory that would provide information and resources to both the buyers, the sellers, and the general public consumer."

According to Pangelinan, many people do not know who the farmers and local produce buyers are on island.

Pangelinan said the crop di-

rectory is one form of networking among farmers and buyers that will help promote local products and increase agricultural production.

"If we don't start enhancing the productivity of our local produce, eventually we are not helping ourselves in food security. What happens if there is a catastrophe somewhere else that the ship cannot come here? We're so dependent on import," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Pangelinan noted, however, that they do not aim to take over the import of all products "but to substitute some of the importation with those we can

grow here locally."

He also noted that many of today's youth do not know about farming and do not see it as a potential career.

"If we at least continue to promote and market [farming], they can see that this can be at least a lucrative business," he said.

Pangelinan disclosed that the CNMI is also a recipient of a \$160,000 grant which he said will be used for multimedia marketing of the local agricultural industry.

"When we're finished with this directory, we'll be doing talk shows, interviews with people, we'll be doing maybe cooking show using local produce, we'll be doing a website," he said.

Deadline for submission of updated information as well as

new entries to the 2011 CNMI Crop Producer and Buyer Directory is on July 28 at 12nn.

Pangelinan encouraged all farmers, local retail, and wholesale market consumers to be listed in the directory since it is free of charge.

"The best that will come out of it is that their name is there and people can call them," he added.

For more information, contact Pangelinan at 322-9830 or email mmpangelinan@gmail.com, attention 2011 CNMI Farmers Directory; Saipan Municipal Council at 664-2700 or email spnmunco@yahoo.com; Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association; or NMC CREES director Ross Manglona at rossm@nmcnet.edu.

Guam ex-convict allegedly impregnated girl on Rota

An ex-convict from Guam who was arrested last week for allegedly impregnating a female minor on Rota entered a not guilty plea in federal court yesterday.

Melvin David Diaz, 49, appeared with court-appointed counsel, Joseph Horey, during a detention hearing at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Diaz pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with three counts of enticement of a minor, and one count of travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

Judge A. Wallace Tashima set the jury trial for Aug. 29, 2011 at 9am, and remanded the defendant back to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Assistant U.S. attorney James

Benedetto asked that Diaz be ordered to stay away from and avoid any contact with the girl or any of her immediate family member. The judge granted this request.

According to the indictment, between Aug. 1, 2010, and Sept. 30, 2010, Diaz traveled from Guam to the CNMI for the purpose of engaging in illicit sex with a minor. A "cooperating individual" approached the FBI to report the matter.

Records showed that Diaz has prior convictions of reckless conduct, stalking, and family violence.

Diaz's license record in Guam listed his employer as the Department of Public Health and Social Services. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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**DRUNK DRIVING
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Penalty fees for traffic violations could sharply increase

» As DPS needs more time to offer driver education program

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Safety Commissioner Ramon Mafnas said he is proposing to raise the penalty fees for traffic violations, after a meeting yesterday with lawmakers on the implementation of a new law that authorizes the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to establish a student driver education program.

Mafnas cited as an example the penalty for running a red light, which he plans to increase to \$150 or more. Average penalty fee for this traffic law violation is \$25.

"Running a red light is a very serious offense. It's not about raising money, but about saving lives," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Speeding ticket, which starts at \$30, could go up to a minimum of \$50.

"Besides the proposed \$50, for example, the violator could be charged an additional \$10 per 5 miles over the speed limit," Mafnas said.

Mafnas, who was sworn into

office on June 14 a day after the Senate's confirmation of his appointment, said the police will beef up enforcement of traffic violations.

He cited examples of traffic laws or regulations that should be enforced at all times, including parking near road intersections, parking near fire hydrants and parking in spaces reserved for people with disabilities.

Mafnas also said DPS is undergoing reorganization.

Driver education program

Mafnas met with House members and senators yesterday afternoon to clarify provisions of Public Law 17-45, which "authorizes" BMV to establish a student driver education program.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) noted the important aspects of PL 17-45, "in order to remove any confusion or concerns."

"This law does not mandate that the BMV immediately implement a driver education

program," he said in a letter to BMV, which is under DPS.

He said the legislation just "authorizes" BMV to establish a program where it can be financially feasible and fully operational.

Torres, one of the longest-serving lawmakers in the CNMI, said the Public School System and Northern Marianas College are also "authorized" to establish a driver education school, but have yet to do so for reasons of lack of funding, among other things.

Mafnas, in his meeting with lawmakers, said DPS is willing to implement the provisions of the law, particularly the establishment of a driver education program at BMV, but they need additional time to do so.

For one, DPS also has limited personnel and funding just like other government agencies and programs.

"We need a little time to establish a driver education program," he told lawmakers, including Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), author of the bill that became PL 17-45.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed SB 17-20 on May 13, saying BMV "is neither ready nor equipped to establish a driver's education program at this point."

But House and Senate members overrode the governor's veto, saying families find it hard to come up with \$350 to pay for a driver's education program offered by a private business on Saipan.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Education, which called for yesterday's meeting in the House chamber, said the meeting with the DPS commissioner and BMV director Juana Leon Guerrero clarified misconceptions about the new law.

Torres said the new law permits all new drivers to not have to enroll or pay for a driver education program, whether commercial, certified, private or

public schools, if they so desire.

He said a new amendment to the existing code has been added to create an alternative driver education program that allows anyone who has reached the age of 15 ½ to attain a learner's permit and then learn to drive with any licensed driver who is over 21 years old and who has one year of driving experience.

After driving with a person over 21 years old and attaining the age of 16, the learner must apply and take the test for an operator's license.

Torres also said that the new

law does not change the fact that drivers issued a license in the U.S. or a foreign country can qualify for a CNMI license without attending a driver education program, as long as that U.S. or foreign license was not suspended or revoked within one year of application for a CNMI operator's license.

PL 17-45 also increased the fees for an operator's license to \$40, and for a duplicate or substitute to \$10.

The new fee for a learner's permit is \$20, and \$10 for a duplicate or substitute.

COLA, annual retirement bonus now up to board

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The cost-of-living-allowance and annual retirement bonus of members would now be based on the Retirement Fund's level of funding and will be subject to the board of trustees' approval.

The board adopted the new regulation at its Friday meeting on Rota.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, said the amended regulation was necessary to conform with the new law enacted by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in February.

Public Law 17-32 amended 1 CMC 8358 to "allow the Fund board to vote to provide a non-compounding annual retirement bonus in lieu of a cost of living increase to help provide for the fiscal solvency of the NMI Retirement Fund."

Based on the new regulation, Class I and Class II retirees and surviving spouses who receive retirement or disability annuity from the Fund may have their annuity adjusted for COLA as determined by the board. In previous regulations, this benefit was mandatory for eligible members.

"The COLA rate shall be set by the board each year using as a guideline the rate used by the U.S. Social Security System for its beneficiaries and shall be applied to the first \$30,000 of each beneficiary's annuity amount," the new regulation states, adding that once the board adopts the COLA rate, it will be the same rate applied throughout the calendar year.

The new regulation also allows the board to provide an annual retirement bonus instead of COLA, provided it gets a two-third vote of board members.

However, any decision to grant an ARB instead of a COLA shall be based on the funding level of Fund.

Saipan Tribune learned that the new regulation, along with the enactment of P.L. 17-32, eliminated the compounding effect of COLA and will reduce the Fund's unfunded liability by \$84 million. It also stops the payment of monthly COLA to eligible members, which will amount to \$33,745 in monthly payments for the remainder of the current fiscal year 2011.



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US minimum wage for CIP workers nixed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial rejected for the second time in two years a proposal to pay employees working on capital improvement projects at least the U.S. minimum wage, saying the bill is “unnecessary” since federal law provisions on wages now apply to the CNMI.

The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour; the CNMI’s current minimum wage is \$5.05 an hour.

“A bill similar to this was introduced in the 16th Legislature, Senate Bill 16-23. I disapproved that measure and disapprove this as well for the same reasons,” Fitial said in his June 27 veto message to the Legislature.

The governor said provisions under the Fair Labor Standards Act, such as the general provisions of the Service Contract Act and the Davis Bacon Related Act, apply to the CNMI.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), author of the vetoed Sen-

ate Bill 17-56, Senate Draft 1, said yesterday that raising the salary of employees working on CIPs to the federal minimum wage level was done before and it could be done again.

Manglona’s previous bill of the same nature also got the governor’s veto in November 2009.

“With all due respect to the governor, this was proven to work in the past, during the previous administration. It might seem like it’s hard to implement but it’s done in the past,” Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Former governor Juan N. Babauta’s Directive 228 on May 20, 2003, raised the salary of construction workers involved in CIPs to the federal minimum wage level.

Fitial cited three other reasons for disapproving Manglona’s bill late Monday afternoon.

He said a section of the bill broadens the application of the “prevailing U.S. federal minimum wage as the wage required by law to be paid to employees

working within any state of the United States” instead of that of the prevailing U.S. federal minimum wage in the CNMI.

A federal law requires minimum wage in the CNMI to be increased by 50 cents every year until it reaches the federal level of \$7.25 an hour.

Fitial said under the FLSA Section 6(a)(1), the prevailing minimum wage applies to all service contracts regardless of dollar amount and must apply safety and health standards and maintain certain records if service contracts are in excess of \$2,500.

The governor also said Section 7306 of the bill creates additional work for Procurement and Supply and the heads of all departments, agencies and instrumentalities to comply with the reporting mandates—all without enough resources provided.

Manglona’s SB 17-56, SD1 sought to reduce unemployment among citizen and permanent resident workers. Eight other senators co-sponsored the bill.

Korean performing groups to take part in LibDay parade

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Different performing groups from Korea will grace this year’s Liberation Day festivities.

These groups, which will arrive on Saturday, are the Korean Rainbow Little Singers and Vincero Voice Ensemble; Sangmyung University Nam Jin Hee Modern Dance Company; Ha Eun Ha and You Young Ju Modern Dance Company; and Kyungmin University Hong

Sung Hee Modern Dance Company and Soback Dance Theater.

All performing groups will be part of a free show to be held at 7:30pm on Sunday, July 3 at the Korean Presbyterian Church in Garapan.

Next day, they will take part in the annual Fourth of July parade and will be performing at the Liberation festival grounds at 7pm.

The groups’ visit is coordinated by the P,Art Music Academy.

Jun Ho Park of P,Art Music Acade-

my said his company has been inviting performers from Korea to share their wonderful talents and rich culture during the Liberation Day celebration.

“These performers will showcase the culture of Korea through their presentation,” he told *Saipan Tribune*. “We invite the community to come see their live performances for free.”

Park said the groups’ visit has also been made possible through the assistance of the Saipan Mayor’s Office and Asiana Airlines.

SURVEYS

From Page 1

Brennan was among those who attended yesterday’s meeting of the governor’s Strategic Economic Development Council.

The Chamber expects to spend some \$20,000 for the whole project, while the Fitial administration has applied for a \$40,701.99 grant with the U.S. Department of Labor for its survey. The government said it will go on with the survey even if U.S. Labor denies its application.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, who was also at the closed-door SEDC meeting, said what the Fitial administration would like to emphasize is that the government never intended to oppose the Chamber’s prevailing wage survey.

“What the governor said was, ‘you conduct yours, we conduct ours,’” he said.

A prevailing wage survey, among other things, is needed by CNMI employers to support their applications for their foreign employees’ U.S. work visas.

Demapan and Brennan said existing laws prohibit the Department of Commerce’s Central Statistics Division from sharing data with other entities or agencies when doing surveys.

“They cannot share information because of privacy issues and confiden-

ality issues,” Demapan said.

This makes it impossible to combine the government and Chamber surveys.

“When the government does a survey, CSD of Commerce, as the statutorily created agency in the government that is in charge of conducting surveys and census...is barred by the statute to disclose information that they obtain,” he added.

But Demapan said the results will be made public.

“The way it sounds today, we’ll pretty much do the same surveys,” he said.

Brennan, who is also general manager of Microl Corp., also noted the regulations governing confidentiality.

“So basically we all agreed that we’re working toward the same goal. There just doesn’t seem to be problem with that. Information will be shared where possible. So we’re very happy with that,” he said.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, will contract the Guam Employers Council, which specializes in extensive services in wage and salary management and prevailing wage surveys. That contract could cost anywhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000, but total cost of the project is estimated at \$20,000.

At the SEDC meeting, Brennan also asked the SEDC and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to use a provision of the

Consolidated Natural Resources Act whereby the CNMI governor can ask the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to create a new classification of a CNMI-only nonimmigrant visa for retirees.

Chamber executive director Richard Pierce said that similar to the previously explored CNMI “Silver Market,” DHS can issue this special visa only in the CNMI and Guam.

Pierce also asked SEDC to consider insertion of language into current legislation before the U.S. Congress that would allow the CNMI to be a part of a billion-dollar-a-year Trade Adjustment Assistance program.

He said TAP provides assistance to workers who have been displaced by global trade. This concession is offered as a way to assist those who may be hurt as a result of free trade agreements currently before Congress.

“The governor and SEDC approved of both these SCC recommendations and will allow the Chamber to offer suggested language on TAP, and draft letters for the governor’s consideration concerning USCIS CNMI-only retirement visas,” Pierce said.

Demapan said the SEDC, which meets monthly, usually hears from the Marianas Visitors Authority, for example, about the latest tourism arrivals or the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands about their concerns.

line of Banzai Cliff using a search and rescue boat but failed to find any trace of the girls.

Demapan said that DPS takes all tips seriously regardless of whether it comes from a family member or from an anonymous caller.

“Again, the department is taking all

steps to ensure that ongoing investigations are not jeopardized and therefore cannot get into more details at this time,” he said.

The Luhk sisters were reported missing near a bus stop in As Teo last May 25. A \$50,000 cash reward has been put up for information on the girls’ whereabouts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VISITING VETS

Military History Tours veterans have their picture taken at the peak of Mount Topochau. Top row from left: Cpl. Shayne Jarosz, USMC; Lt. Col. Roy Elrod USMC (age 92, 2nd Mar. Division Saipan); Maj. Rick T. Spooner, USMC (age 92, 2nd Marine Division, Saipan and Tinian), and his son, Maj. Rick W. Spooner, USMC. Bottom row: Lt. Col. John Z. Hoy, U.S. Army; MGySgt. Ron Keene, USMC; Lt. Col. Andy Traynor, USMC; Cpl. Justin Palmer, USMC (active duty). All are U.S. Marine Corps veterans, except for Ron Hoy who was with the U.S. Army, and Cpl. Justin Palmer, USMC, who is still on active duty. Elrod and Spooner are World War II veterans. Andy Traynor, John Hoy, and Ron Keene are Vietnam veterans; Palmer is an Afghanistan veteran. The group will be heading to Tinian this afternoon and will return to Saipan Friday afternoon for a ceremony at the American Memorial Park on Saturday.

BILL

From Page 1

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) is set to formally introduce in today’s session House Bill 17-200, or “The Faloma and Maleina Parent Notification of 2011.”

Santos said her bill is important “especially knowing how critical time factors in the recovery of children when they go missing.”

The bill seeks to add a new subsection to the Commonwealth Code. The proposed new subsection reads: “If a child is absent and the school has not been notified, a member of the office staff shall contact the parent or legal guardian on the first morning. If there is no answer at home, the emergency number or the parent or legal guardian’s place of business or work will be called in an attempt to reach the parent or legal guardian.”

Currently, schools wait for the third day of absence before calling or notifying parents or legal guardians of absent students.

The Luhk sisters, both students at Kagman Elementary School, have been missing since May 25. Police said witnesses reported seeing the sisters at past 6am that day near their house in

As Teo while waiting for their school bus that was supposed to pick them up at 6:30am.

The sisters did not make it to the bus and missed class. Their grandparents and relatives only learned that the girls were missing when they failed to return home after school around 3:30pm.

The grandparents filed a missing persons report with the Department of Public Safety at 5:30pm—over 11 hours after they were reportedly last seen.

Santos, in her bill, said in most missing children cases worldwide, “time is an important factor.”

“When a child is taken, the two days following the abduction are what is the most important. If a child is taken and recovered within the following 48 hours, the child has a better chance of being found alive.

“However, after 48 hours have passed, the chance is much lower that the child will be found alive, or that they will be found at all,” Santos said.

DPS and the FBI continue to monitor “classified leads” in the disappearance of Faloma, 10, and Maleina, 9.

Despite the \$50,000 cash reward for information on the Luhk sisters, tips and leads have dried up, according to the FBI.

POLICE

From Page 1

U.S. Navy and a C-130 plane from the U.S. Air Force did an aerial search for a day. Only underwater search has not been done.

Last Friday, DPS searched the cliff

Framingham grads face 'slim' chance of getting reimbursed

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The requests for reimbursement submitted by graduates of the Framingham State University face a slim chance of being approved due to the lack of funds and unsupported documents for their claims.

This was according to Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance administrator Henry Hofschneider, who said yesterday that the SHEFA board is expected to take action on the matter at its next meeting.

Sixteen students who recently graduated from the Framingham Cohort 8 had been refused reimbursements on their tuition and fees for their master's study in the fall 2010 semester after SHEFA determined that they had no standing claim on their grant awards, amounting to \$4,700 for each scholar, or a total of \$75,200.

The students appealed the de-

cision to the SHEFA board and Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, claiming that they had an agreement with the previous board due to their "unique" situation. They insist that they are entitled to the award because they all met SHEFA's requirements. The previous board, they said, promised to reimburse their expenses once the awards are available.

Hofschneider said yesterday, however, that after searching for documents that would back the scholars' claim, no record has been found of such an agreement or amended policy.

It is therefore improper, he said, to provide an award to these ineligible applicants.

The Framingham graduates' complaint was referred to the SHEFA board's policy and procedures committee, which will come out with a recommendation soon.

Hofschneider also disclosed that SHEFA has no "lapsed funds" for fall 2010 that could be used to reimburse the complaining scholars. He explained that graduate students are second priority of the program and SHEFA rules and regulations provide that awards are subject to availability of funds.

He said these students in Cohort 8 were all at the graduate level and thus should be ranked second priority, as pro-

vided by law.

At the same time, Hofschneider said there's no way fund-

ing for fiscal year 2011 scholars could be used to cover the reimbursement.

"Based on the reports we received from Finance, SHEFA has no lapsed funds that can be used to cover for the financial assistance awards for second, third, and fourth priorities," he added.

Another OAG prosecutor resigning

Assistant attorney general Benjamin Petersburg is resigning from the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

Petersburg confirmed yesterday that he is leaving OAG effective August 2011.

"It's really just personal reasons," said the prosecutor, who refused to elaborate.

Petersburg, who is from Iowa, said he accepted a position as a



Petersburg

prosecutor in New Mexico. Petersburg joined the OAG's Criminal Division

in the middle of June 2010.

"It was a great experience. Very positive," he said of his brief stint with the OAG. "I wish the office continue its success and all the attorneys continue to grow."

Petersburg said he had already spoken with Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham and Chief Prosecutor Michael Ernest about his intent to resign. He will formally submit his resignation letter in the next couple of days.

Petersburg's departure would leave the OAG's Criminal Division with seven prosecutors, including Ernest.

Petersburg will be the 13th assistant attorney general to leave the OAG during Buckingham's term as attorney general.

On Monday, assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel-Shearer confirmed that her last day of employment with the OAG is the end of July. She is moving to Washington, D.C. "to take care of family." (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Network Maintenance

As part of our ongoing commitment to our customers and system-wide upgrade, IT&E engineers will conduct a two-phase project that will relocate our servers to a new state of the art facility in our Susupe headquarters. Phase One of the move will take place on Thursday, **June 30 from 1am - 5am**. Phase Two of the move will take place on Friday, **July 1 from 1am - 5am**. During these times, IT&E customers will not be able to access our web services or download any e-mails that are hosted on our servers. No emails will be lost during either phase of the project as all data will be queued in IT&E's backup SMTP gateways. Customers using an e-mail client (Yahoo!, Gmail, MSN, Outlook, Thunderbird, etc.) should still be able to send and receive messages as usual. Internet browsing will not be affected. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience experienced during this activity. IT&E appreciates your patience and understanding while we continue to serve the Marianas.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 Department of Public Health
Office of the Secretary of Public Health
 P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
 Telephone: (1-670) 234-8950 FAX: (1-670) 234-8930



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2012 State Plan is now available for review and public comment from June 29, 2011 to July 1, 2011. Interested members of the general public may review the 2012 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Navy Hill, Saipan, Building No. N-25. Our office hours are from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Monday – Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than July 5, 2011.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez

Carmen C. Cabrera

Secretary of Public Health WIC Program Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-11-043

CHALAN KANOA SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of Sewer Lift Stations and installation of Force-Main in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) sewerline in two areas of Chalan Kanoa. The first project is to replace and re-locate a section of existing 6 inch ACP sewerline which has collapsed along Texas Road in the vicinity of the Chalan Kanoa cemetery, with 584 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch PVC sewerline and 3 new concrete manholes. The second project is the replacement of 160 LF of existing 6 inch ACP sewerline, between two existing manholes, located on Brigida Street in front of the on-going Sandy Beach Homes project. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of \$ 100.00 (non-refundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site-Visit, will be held on **June 30, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-11-043, Chalan Kanoa Sewerline Replacement Project No. 1**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 14, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00200 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 05, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Brian Bearden, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email brian_bearden@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
 Executive Director

Man'amko get new bingo machine



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Pacific Amusement Inc. general manager James Gebhard and wife Jum Gebhard present the used Mach Bingo Desk Version 4.0 to Saipan Seniors Advisory Council members yesterday afternoon.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

Regulars at the Aging Center have a new toy: a bingo machine donated by Pacific Amusement Inc. to replace the *man'amko*'s obsolete equipment.

The secondhand Mach Bingo Desk Version 4.0 was presented by Pacific Amusement Inc. general manager James Gebhard and his wife Jum Gebhard to Saipan Seniors Advisory Council members yesterday afternoon. Pacific Amusement Inc. staff installed the machine that same day.

James Gebhard said it took them two months and \$7,000 to ship the used bingo machine from Chicago to Saipan.

Gebhard recounted that when

he found out that the previous bingo machine had broken down, he talked with his business partner Paul Trombetta about possibly donating another bingo machine.

"They play bingo here every day and we'd like to help them out," said Gebhard.

Gebhard said the *man'amko* will appreciate the donated machine as it has 30 different pre-programmed games and a camera that can show all players what ball and number has been drawn.

As for his message to the *man'amko*, Gebhard simply said: "Have fun."

Council chair Teresita Sorroza said there are "no appropriate words" to express their appreciation for Pacific Amusement's

bingo machine donation.

"Everybody was so happy they were yelling. It's really a big help and I know the *man'amko* will take care of this machine," she added.

Acting director Walter Manglona disclosed that Pacific Amusement Inc. has been a consistent supporter of the congregates at the Aging Center, having donated various sports equipment in the past such as pool table and dart machines.

"They probably donated the most value at the Aging Center," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We are very fortunate that they're kind enough to donate this machine for the *man'amko*."

Manglona said they will keep the other machine in their storage room "for standby or backup."

12-day sentence for ex-BMV staff in driver's license scam

The Superior Court yesterday slapped a 12-day prison term on a former employee of the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles who conspired with an alleged overstaying foreign national to illegally issue CNMI driver's licenses.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Dereck Robert Dueñas to a year in prison, all suspended except for 12 days, for misconduct in public office.

The 32-year-old Dueñas was given credit for the 12 days he had already spent in jail, which means he will no longer serve further prison time.

He was placed on one year of probation and required to pay a \$500 fine, \$100 probation fee, and \$25 court assessment fee. He was also ordered to undergo counseling evaluation at the Community Guidance Center.

He was allowed, however, to leave for Seattle this year to attend to the medical treatment of his mother.

Dueñas, who appeared in court with court-appointed counsel, Steven Pixley, refused to speak to

the media after the hearing.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Dueñas with four counts of bribery, one count of conspiracy, and one count of misconduct in public office. He pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office as part of a plea deal. The remaining charges were dropped.

Dueñas' co-defendant, Dong Hyen Kim, had also entered a guilty plea. He will be sentenced next month.

A police detective stated in his report that Dueñas and Kim conspired to help some driver's license applicants pass written and actual driving tests in exchange for a fee. Dueñas was a driver's license

examiner at BMV.

The investigation began when an anonymous caller informed the Office of Public Auditor on May 5, 2009, about the scam. Police arrested Duenas and Kim in June 2009.

Investigation showed that Kim, who allegedly has an illegal immigration status since 2002, would bring first-time driver's license applicants to BMV and charge an average of \$350 per client. Kim would then pay Dueñas \$30 to \$100 to help his clients pass the written and driving tests.

Dueñas would also fail other customers and accept \$40 to \$150 in exchange for passing them. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

ISTS-Driver Training Academy reopens

The ISTS-Driver Training Academy reopened for business last Saturday, June 25. Students already enrolled in the driving curriculum will be given priority. The classroom curriculum will recommence on July 5 at 8am. Seats are still available. Call 322-2220 or 484-0910 for

registration details.

Academy owner Richard Puhalla has been in Manila for the past week undergoing quintuple heart bypass surgery. He is very appreciative of the support and patience expressed by his students during these difficult times. (*PR*)

CUC well isolation project 95 pct. done

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More areas on Saipan will soon have 24-hour water supply, with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s well isolation project now 95 percent complete and final completion scheduled in September this year.

The project, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, involves reconnecting pipelines and diverting water from CUC's direct feed wells in the Koblerville area to the Isley Tank site.

The project eliminates direct feed wells, or wells that pump water directly into the distribution system, and is expected to provide improved services.

According to CUC deputy director Alan Fletcher, CUC has about 38 wells that feed directly into the system.

"These wells waste energy unnecessarily, have frequent

motor/pump replacements, and most importantly, have varying water quality due to a lack of circulation in the system. By diverting the flow from these wells into water storage tanks, there will be longer contact-time for disinfection which will help to improve water quality," he explained.

To date, CUC has completed 95 percent of the well isolation project and has met the 20 percent green reserve component of the almost \$2 million ARRA and Environmental Protection Agency grant requirement, Fletcher said.

Once complete, CUC expects to see increased motor and pump efficiency which will reduce electrical use and increase the water supply. Also, nine separate chlorination stations will be eliminated, further reducing the cost of operations and maintenance over time.

Fletcher said this project will

directly benefit current and future residents of Kagman, Koblerville, San Antonio, As Lito, Dandan, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe, who will see increased water hours and increased water pressure.

The well isolation project also involves the construction of a new transmission line to connect three new wells that the CNMI Water Task Force drilled in Kagman, construction of control panel enclosures, installation of perimeter security fencing and exterior labs, installation of pumps, construction of properly designed and wellheads, and connecting wells into the CUC water grid.

CUC's water division will also be performing water system construction in Koblerville, San Antonio, Afetna, and As Perdido that will result in water fluctuation in these areas until June 30.

Tinian to unveil Friday 2nd Marine Division monument

The Tinian Mayor's office has invited military and government officials as well as the public to attend the 2nd Marine Division Monument dedication ceremony on Friday, July 1, 10am at Tinian's Historic North Field.

Welcoming remarks will be delivered by Tinian and Aguihan Mayor Ray Dela Cruz, followed by brief remarks from Gov. Benigno R. Fitial; Rear Admiral Paul Bushong, Commanding Officer, Joint Region, Marianas; and CNMI Delegate to Congress Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

Colonel Robert Loynd, USMC, Officer-in-Charge, Marine Corps Activities, Guam, will deliver the keynote remarks. The United States Marine Corps will perform Color Guard duties, while the Tinian High School ROTC

"Stallion Battalion" will provide escort duties.

Unveiling the monument and wreath laying will follow Colonel Loynd's remarks.

Major Rick Spooner, 2nd Marine Division, USMC, (Ret.), who participated in both the Saipan and Tinian invasions as a sergeant, will be guest of honor.

"The Tinian Mayor's office is inviting all residents and visitors to attend the dedication ceremony that will take place on Tinian's North Field, a National Historic Landmark," said Dela Cruz. "The 2nd Division memorial is an important commemoration to the historical events that occurred on Tinian."

Both the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions invaded the Japanese-held island of Saipan on June 15, 1944. During that bloody, strategic engagement, both divi-

sions lost nearly 25 percent of their effective force. Nevertheless, on July 24, with only two weeks of "rest and recuperation," both divisions participated in what was dubbed "The perfect amphibious operation of World War II," the invasion and capture of Tinian.

For the last several years, a monument to the 4th Marine Division has stood alone at Tinian's historic North Field. Due to impetus provided by a former Marine visiting Tinian with Military History Tours, Michael L. Emerson, a monument to the 2nd Marine Division has been constructed and will now stand side-by-side with its companion 4th Marine Division monument.

For further information, contact Allen Perez, chief of staff to Dela Cruz, at 433-1800. (PR)

Server relocation, interruptions to IT&E email

As part of its systemwide upgrade, IT&E engineers will conduct a two-phase project that will relocate the company's servers to a new state-of-the-art facility at its Susupe headquarters.

Phase One of the move will take place on Thursday, June 30, from 1am to 5am. Phase Two will take place on Friday, July 1, from 1am to 5am.

During these times, IT&E customers will not be able to access Web services or download any e-mails that are hosted on IT&E servers.

No emails will be lost during either phase of the project as all data will be queued in IT&E's backup SMTP gateways.

Customers using an e-mail client (Yahoo!, Gmail, MSN, Outlook, Thunderbird, etc.)

should still be able to send and receive messages as usual. Internet browsing will not be affected.

"We apologize in advance for any inconvenience experienced during this activity. IT&E appreciates your patience and understanding while we continue to serve the Marianas," said the company in a statement yesterday. (IT&E)

Makeup phone conference for Pacific

» Listening sessions on Ocean Policy Strategic Action Plans

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has scheduled a new listening session on the Ocean Policy Strategic Action Plans via telephone conference on June 29, 12:30pm, Pacific Standard Time.

According to Andy Winer, director of NOAA's Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives, the new listening session is necessary due to the technical difficulties that disrupted the Pacific region's first listening session.

"Despite our contract with the Neil S. Blaisdell Center, the facility's Internet service was non-functional for much of the afternoon, and, as a result, we were unable to operate the satellite hook-up," he said. "We remain committed to receiving comments from stakeholders throughout the Pacific and would like to extend the opportunity to join a makeup session."

To participate, contact Winer's deputy, James Chang, at james.

chang@noaa.gov, so he can share the dial-in information and ensure that there are enough lines available on the conference call.

"Please be certain to indicate which island you will be calling from, so that he can include appropriate instructions to join the call toll-free," Winer added.

Alternatively, comments may be submitted via the National Ocean Council's website, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/sap>.

Newborn Hearing Screening Program

All babies get their hearing tested shortly after birth. Ask if your baby passed the test. Track your baby's hearing by looking for these behaviors.

BY THREE MONTHS

- ☐ Turn eyes toward interesting sounds
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- ☐ Cry differently for different needs

BY SIX MONTHS

- ☐ Turn his or her head in the direction of new sounds
- ☐ Babble a lot of different sounds
- ☐ Respond to his or her name
- ☐ Respond to changes in your tone of voice



If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing, schedule an appointment right away. Call 236-8709

Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.



StayWell Saipan, Inc. has an immediate opening for the following position:

Health Support Representative

This is a full-time position with responsibilities to include reviewing of health records at on-site medical facilities and issue pre-certification of plan benefit coverage. Qualified applicants must have the following:

- BS Nursing or Allied Health Degree required;
- Experience in medical chart review required;
- Must be able to work independently;
- Must have good verbal and written communication skills;
- Must be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel; and
- Must have a valid driver's license and willingness to use personal vehicle in the course of work.

All interested individuals may apply in person at Flame Tree Terrace Office Building, Suite 200, Lower Capitol Hill on or before July 6, 2011.

StayWell is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Hokkaido group remembers fallen heroes



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the Hokkaido Gojinjo Daiko Hozonkai perform a traditional dance during yesterday's memorial service at the 89 Shrine on Airport Road.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Japan consul Tsutomu Higuchi joins delegates of the Hokkaido Gokokujinja Memorial Group in offering prayers.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Tomoki Kamada plays music during yesterday's memorial rites dedicated to Japan's World War II fallen heroes.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 33-member group from Hokkaido Japan is on island for a three-day memorial service and visit to historic sites on Saipan and Tinian.

Tsuneya Shionoya, leader of the Hokkaido Gokokujinja Memorial Group, led yesterday's ceremonial rite at the 89 Shrine along Airport Road where delegates offered prayers to their heroes who fought in the Pacific during the World War II.

Shionoya told *Saipan Tribune* that this year marks the

organization's seventh visit to the Northern Marianas to offer prayers and remember the heroic acts of hundreds of Japanese soldiers who died during the war.

Hokkaido Gokokujinja Group last visited the CNMI in 2008.

For Shionoya, memories of their fallen soldiers and their heroic acts are best remembered by regularly visiting their resting places and dedicating special prayers and ceremonies for them. He said the Hokkaido group is mostly composed of families and relatives of fallen soldiers.

He, together with Tomoki Kamada, who also led yesterday's memorial rites, assured the group's return after three years.

The delegation was joined by Japanese Consul Tsutomu Higuchi in yesterday's rites.

The memorial service was also highlighted by a performance from the Hokkaido-Gojinjo-Daiko-Hozonkai group.

Saipan Tribune learned that the group arrived Monday night and are staying at Hafadai Beach Hotel. Their travel was arranged by the Nippon Travel Agency Micronesia Inc.

According to Ramon Vale-

ros, coordinator for the travel agency, the group will stay until June 30 and will return to Japan on July 1.

The group will hold a similar memorial rite at the Kuroki Daidai Shrine in Kannat Tabla and in Marpi. They are also scheduled to visit other historical places such as the Sugar King Park, Suicide Cliff, and Last Command Post in Marpi.

On June 29, the group will travel to Tinian to hold the same memorial service at historical shrines on the island. Other group members are also set to visit Guam.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 29, 1999

NMC hosts first doctoral degree program

The Northern Marianas College and the University of San Diego (USD) has again collaborated to offer local educators the opportunity to pursue post-graduate program. After the first batch of 25 local educators completed their masteral degree program on educational leadership last year, six are currently pursuing a doctoral degree this summer at NMC. According to NMC Provost Roy Fua, together with students from Guam, American Samoa, Palau, Indonesia, Taiwan and Singapore, the six from Saipan are pursuing the final degree with emphasis on leadership.

CNMI braces for oversight hearing in DC

Northern Marianas leaders yesterday underscored the significance of the oversight hearing scheduled by the U.S. Senate Energy and Resources Committee late next month on local immigration policy, saying this may be an opportunity to present recent reforms undertaken on the island. While the CNMI government has yet to prepare for the July 27 hearing, legislators believe only a small delegation headed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio will likely travel to Washington D.C. This will be the second hearing in one and half year on the Commonwealth's labor and immigration standards following the inquiry conducted by the same Senate committee in March last year to address the proposed federal takeover bill then pending in the Congress.

June 29, 2000

Kumoi: Ban oil tankers during daytime

The government may ban oil tankers from plying the islands' streets during daytime for safety reasons if a proposed bill sponsored by Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero becomes a law. The proposal, pending with the upper house, seeks to schedule delivery of fuel to gas service stations only at nighttime in an effort to prevent potential deadly accidents on the road. Noting that some pumping stations are located near schools, Mr. Guerrero said an accident with more casualties could happen when tankers deliver fuel in the daytime. "I have introduced the bill for safety reasons so that we could keep [delivery] away from schools when children are around," he told in an interview yesterday. "The delivery should only be done at night."

CPA wants free hand on investing bond proceeds

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has sounded the alarm on proposed legislation that seeks to regulate trust companies in the Northern Marianas, pointing out provisions in the draft measure that may run in contrast to government efforts at luring more investors into the CNMI. Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said CPA was specifically concerned on the possible impacts of the proposed measure to the agency's ability to freely choose finance companies or banking institutions, to where its bond proceeds will be invested. Existing local laws allow CPA, an autonomous government corporation, to issue revenue bonds in order to finance various airport and seaport infrastructure projects throughout the Northern Marianas.

June 29, 2001

DPH mulls high-tech AIDS center

The Department of Public Health yesterday said it is putting up a technologically-updated health center that will attend to the needs of HIV patients. The "HIV-AIDS Treatment and Support Center" will be the CNMI's premiere health center, which will respond to the medical needs of people with HIV or AIDS, said David B. Rosario, DPH public health adviser. In an interview, Rosario said DPH is working out the release of some \$150,000 to start the project. Half of the amount, he said, will be used to finance the renovation of a building that the government has donated for the AIDS treatment center. The remaining funds will be allotted for its manpower services.

NMI student joins US research program

A young Saipan resident was accepted to participate in the Summer Research with the National Institute on Drug Abuse Program at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Bradley Matsumoto, salutatorian of the 1999 Mount Carmel High School batch of graduates, was picked from a handful of the nation's brightest applicants with desire to take part in the exclusive 10-month summer program. NIDA was designed to introduce high school and undergraduate underrepresented minority students to drug abuse research with some of the nation's most distinguished scientists.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Belated happy birthday greetings to Velma and Telma Fleming, who celebrated their birthday yesterday, June 28! Greetings come from Dad, Auntie Jane, ReMO, and your brothers.



Happy birthday greetings go out to our daughter, Emily Rose Yaisang DeWitt, who's celebrating her 14th birthday today, June 29.



Belated happy birthday to Baby Aaliyah Jae Santos! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Jovohni, families, and WIC Fam bamz!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Korean students visit the *man'amko*, do cleanup

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students and teachers from Dong Myung University in Busan, South Korea spent time with the congregates at the Aging Center during their visit on June 27 and 28.

A total of 32 university students and three instructors, who arrived on island on June 24, bonded with the island's elderly population through various games and activities.

On Monday, the students and the *man'amko* played bingo, ground golf, and pool. Yesterday morning, they played softball and performed dance routines.

The Korean visitors, who are scheduled to leave early Friday morning, are staying at the Hotel Riviera Saipan, which coordinated this trip.

Sen Kim, Hotel Riviera Saipan international coordinator, said this is the first time for the group to be on Saipan.

He said the visiting group also did a cleanup along Beach Road and visited the Northern Marianas College where they did grounds maintenance, including bush cutting, picking up trash, painting, and cleaning the NMC logo.

Kim said this was also the first time they made arrangements for a Korean student group, who are visiting as part of their community service.

"They're young students and they have the patience. We thought we could bring them to the Aging Center and give them time to enjoy sports and other activities with the *man'amko*," he said.

Jun Young Kim, who is from Chang-Won and is taking up robotics engineering, said through interpreter Chang Hwan Seol that he likes Saipan.

"It has very nice view and random weather," the 22-year-old Young told *Saipan Tribune*. "It's



The *man'amko* pose for a group photo with the 35-member group from Dong Myung University yesterday afternoon. The group, which arrived last Friday, is scheduled to depart early Friday morning.



Dong Myung University students and the *man'amko* take a break from their softball tournament held at the Sugar King Park grounds yesterday morning.



Congregates at the Aging Center dance with their visitors from Dong Myung University in Busan, South Korea. A total of 32 students and 3 instructors arrived on Saipan on June 24 to conduct their community service, which included the visit to the *man'amko*, beach cleanup, and providing grounds maintenance services at the Northern Marianas College.

also nice playing with all the grandmas and the grandpas."

Ryudong Woo, 25, said Saipan is beautiful. "I would come back again for vacation," said the finance management

student.

Kyeong Soo, president of the Dong Myung University student union, said they really enjoyed spending time with the *man'amko*.

"I feel that we are very close together. Even though we have different nationality, age, gender and we can't converse well, it doesn't really matter. We're glad to help them," said Soo

through interpreter Sen Kim.

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council Teresita Sorroza said all the congregates felt pampered by the Korean students' visit.

"The *man'amko* are very

happy of their visit. They're very active, they danced, they played, they helped the *man'amko*. We hope to see more young visitors stop by the Aging Center," she added.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



MARIANA

EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SEMAKAU	018E	6/18 Sat	6/16 Thu	6/16 Thu	6/14 Tue	6/11 Sat	6/24 Fri	6/20 Mon	6/19 Sun	6/12 Sun	6/12 Sun	6/20 Mon	6/24 Fri	6/26 Sun	6/28 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	057E	6/25 Sat	6/23 Thu	6/23 Thu	6/21 Tue	6/18 Sat	7/1 Fri	6/27 Mon	6/26 Sun	6/19 Sun	6/19 Sun	6/27 Mon	7/1 Fri	7/3 Sun	7/5 Tue
MELL SARACA	049E	7/2 Sat	6/30 Thu	6/30 Thu	6/28 Tue	6/25 Sat	7/8 Fri	7/4 Mon	7/3 Sun	6/26 Sun	6/26 Sun	7/4 Mon	7/8 Fri	7/10 Sun	7/12 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	019E	7/9 Sat	7/7 Thu	7/7 Thu	7/5 Tue	7/2 Sat	7/15 Fri	7/11 Mon	7/10 Sun	7/3 Sun	7/3 Sun	7/11 Mon	7/15 Fri	7/17 Sun	7/19 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	058E	7/16 Sat	7/14 Thu	7/14 Thu	7/12 Tue	7/9 Sat	7/22 Fri	7/18 Mon	7/17 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/18 Mon	7/22 Fri	7/24 Sun	7/26 Tue
MELL SARACA	050E	7/23 Sat	7/21 Thu	7/21 Thu	7/19 Tue	7/16 Sat	7/29 Fri	7/25 Mon	7/24 Sun	7/17 Sun	7/17 Sun	7/25 Mon	7/29 Fri	7/31 Sun	8/2 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMAKAU	018E	7/2 Sat	7/3 Sun	7/3 Sun	SKIP	7/6 Wed	7/8 Fri	7/10 Sun	SKIP	7/15 Fri	7/16 Sat	7/21 Thu	8/9 Tue	7/20 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	057E	7/9 Sat	7/10 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/12 Tue	7/13 Wed	7/15 Fri	7/17 Sun	SKIP	7/22 Fri	7/23 Sat	7/28 Thu	8/16 Tue	7/27 Wed
MELL SARACA	049E	7/16 Sat	7/17 Sun	7/17 Sun	SKIP	7/20 Wed	7/22 Fri	7/24 Sun	SKIP	7/29 Fri	7/30 Sat	8/4 Thu	8/23 Tue	8/3 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	019E	7/23 Sat	7/24 Sun	7/24 Sun	7/27 Wed	7/27 Wed	7/29 Fri	7/31 Sun	SKIP	8/5 Fri	8/6 Sat	8/11 Thu	8/30 Tue	8/10 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	058E	7/30 Sat	7/31 Sun	7/31 Sun	SKIP	8/3 Wed	8/5 Fri	8/7 Sun	SKIP	8/12 Fri	8/13 Sat	8/18 Thu	9/6 Tue	8/17 Wed
MELL SARACA	050E	8/6 Sat	8/7 Sun	8/7 Sun	8/11 Thu	8/10 Wed	8/12 Fri	8/14 Sun	SKIP	8/19 Fri	8/20 Sat	8/25 Thu	9/13 Tue	8/24 Wed

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Moving the world

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Obama revs up the patronage machine

It has been clear for some time that President Obama has followed the time-dishonored practice of rewarding campaign contributors with cushy jobs in government and other benefits. But a new report by the Center for Public Integrity documents the outrageous extent to which the president's financial benefactors are being installed in important positions, including ambassadorships.

An inquiry by the center's investigative team found that more than two years into Obama's administration, "nearly 200 of his biggest donors have landed plum government jobs and advisory posts, won federal contracts worth millions of dollars for their business interests or attended numerous elite White House meetings and social events." Especially likely to be rewarded are "bundlers," fundraisers who collect contributions from many individuals.

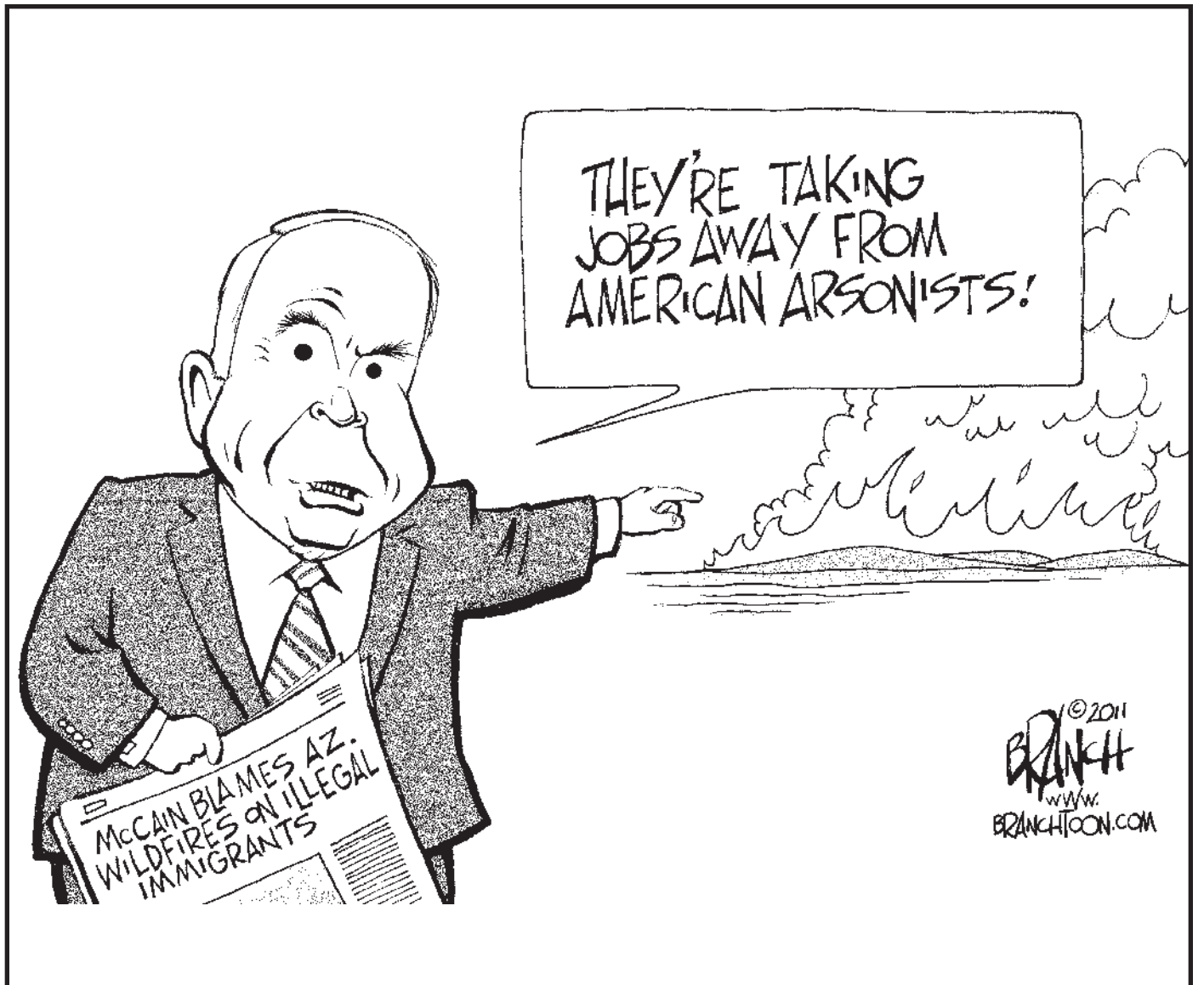
"Nearly 80 percent of those who collected more than \$500,000 for Obama took 'key administration posts,' as defined by the White House," the report said. "More than half the ambassador nominees who were bundlers raised more than half a million." (Twenty-four bundlers have been appointed ambassadors.)

Not every bundler appointed to an important position is unqualified, as the report might suggest. For example, the report notes that Obama named Julius Genachowski, who bundled \$500,000 for his campaign, as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Yet Genachowski is also a former chief counsel to an FCC chairman and an expert in telecommunications law.

The Center for Public Integrity report also can be faulted for being priggish in its criticism of minor rewards for contributions. The fact that a donor might be invited to a White House dinner pales as an ethical problem next to the political dispensation of ambassadorships and other key positions. But in general it documents a perversion of the appointments process.

Jaded Washington observers will say it was ever thus and that presidents have long installed cronies in palatial embassies. Besides, they say, political patronage appointees are seldom installed in vital positions. For example, when a president is looking for an ambassador to a strategically important country, he is more likely to choose a career diplomat than a crony. That doesn't alter the offensiveness of naming political contributors to ambassadorships and other positions. As the candidate of hope and change, Obama should have turned off the patronage machine. Instead, he revved it up.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times



US and North Korea: The land of lousy options

By SEN. JOHN KERRY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sixty-one years ago, North Korean artillery opened fire along the 38th Parallel, and a war began that claimed the lives of more than 33,000 American soldiers, 100,000 Chinese "volunteers" and 2 million Koreans.

Today, the goal of building a lasting peace remains elusive. In fact, the peninsula is more dangerous than ever. North Korea has twice tested nuclear weapons and is developing missiles to carry them. It has built facilities capable of producing highly enriched uranium for more nuclear weapons. In defiance of a U.N. arms embargo, it continues to export weapons and sensitive technologies to unsavory partners such as Myanmar. And last year, the deadliest since the armistice in 1953, a North Korean torpedo killed 46 South Korean sailors and an artillery attack on Yeonpyeong Island killed four more South Koreans.

The U.S. response to all of this has been measured but firm. It has also been inadequate.

More than three years have passed since the last round of six-party talks on eliminating North Korea's nuclear weapons, and it's no coincidence that this diplomatic hiatus has been marked by dangerous conduct. Our current approach of strong sanctions and intense coordination with South Korea and Japan does not provide sufficient leverage to stabilize the situation, much less bring about a change in North Korean behavior. Left unchecked, Pyongyang will build more nuclear weapons, test them and develop missiles that could directly threaten the United States.

What are our options?

Returning immediately to the six-party talks (which included North Korea, South Korea, the United States, Russia, China and Japan) is not viable. South Korea won't participate unless North Korea atones for its recent bad behavior. And the North, approaching a leadership succession in 2012, is disinclined to cooperate lest it look weak.

Similarly, there are limits to the pressure that China is willing and able to apply. China exerts the most leverage as North Korea's ally and largest trading partner, but it's not willing to risk the country's collapse. Further, Pyongyang has a habit of stubbornly resisting good advice, even from its patrons in Beijing.

The best alternative is for the United States to engage North Korea directly.

We all have grown weary of North Korea's truculence — its habit of ratcheting up tensions, followed by calls to negotiate back from the brink, followed by concessions, and a repetition

of the process. But while North Korea may be the "land of lousy options," as one expert calls it, inaction only invites a dangerous situation to get worse.

That is why, always in close consultation with our South Korean allies, we should explore steps that can reduce the threat and return to the path toward a denuclearized peninsula. Achieving complete denuclearization will take time, but in the near term we should try to negotiate an end to the North's enrichment of uranium, a moratorium on nuclear weapons and missile testing, the removal of fresh fuel rods capable of producing fissile material and the final dismantlement of the Yongbyon nuclear reactor. These are worthy intermediate goals along the path toward complete and verifiable denuclearization.

To be sure, it's unlikely that we can resume such sensitive talks immediately given the current state of relations. We need to start more slowly.

A good place to begin would be to open talks with North Korea on resuming recovery operations in North Korea for American servicemen still missing from the war — operations suspended in 2005 by Donald Rumsfeld. The North is willing to resume these efforts. This will open a direct channel of communication with the Korean People's Army, and will return U.S. soldiers to the battlegrounds of North Korea on a solemn mission to ensure that no American is left behind.

We should also resume carefully monitored U.S. food assistance to hungry North Korean children and other vulnerable populations. North Korean human rights envoy Bob King's recent visit to Pyongyang reflects a long and wise American tradition of separating humanitarian concerns from politics. If the North allows strict monitoring, as it did when U.S. nongovernmental organizations delivered food aid in 2008, then the United States should demonstrate our compassion for the famished children of North Korea.

After two years of near-silence, reestablishing contact would demonstrate that cooperation is possible, if only on humanitarian issues at first. Then we can move on to tougher issues, including dismantling North Korea's nuclear program. North Korea is changing, undergoing a leadership transition and increasing exposure to the outside world. If we give Pyongyang a stake in improving its behavior, we increase the odds that our nuclear engagement will be successful in the coming years.

Rebuilding a relationship is essential to unlocking the nuclear puzzle and forging a lasting peace. Let's get on with it.

John Kerry, D-Mass, heads the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Recalibration of policies

A study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce presents two salient points that are worth reviewing. It's worth our salt if we work proactively on due diligence. They are:

1). Wealth and jobs creation are best handled at the states and territorial levels.

2). Returning to basics that have lured taxpayers and businesses the Lone Star of Texas.

The Praxis Strategy Group and Joel Kotkin prepared the report. This group is an economic research and development strategy company that works with leaders and innovators in business, education and government to create new economic opportunities. Kotkin is an internationally recognized authority on global, economic, political and social trends. His book *The Next 100 Million: America in 2050* explores how the nation will evolve in the next four decades.

Progressive strides have been undertaken by states to improve issues like taxes and tax credits, deregulations of federal and state laws to grant businesses greater room for establishment of new or expansion of anchor or traditional investments, human resource training to meet business demands on skills and expertise; and the strengthening of laws that work while regressive ones are repealed forthwith. These are some of the areas that have had businesses sharing ideas to create wealth and jobs for people throughout towns across the country.

Simplicity and basics work!

Michael Reagan, the son of the 40th president of our country and author of the book, *The New Reagan Revolution* said, "It's not complicated: limited government works." He noted that it takes basic principles of keeping taxes low, restraining government spending, minimizing regulations on private enterprise, and keeping the money supply sound.

Reagan further noted that world leaders across the globe replicated the "American Miracle." How sad though that a short time ago it has fallen by the wayside. Our country was engulfed in the era

of bailouts and budget busting stimulus packages. He argues that the future can be salvaged and improved "by revisiting the lessons of the past" as preached by his father. It's the sure way that our country could reasonably pull itself out of the economic death spiral.

He challenged leadership across the country to visit Texas Governor Rick Perry who championed and built upon the concepts his father used to rebuild America in the 1980s. "The results...are unassailable", he declared. Indeed, Texas, by any measure "survived the global economic recession in dramatically better shape than any other state, continuing to add employers seeking to expand or relocate from across the country or around the world.

What's the secret behind the Texas Miracle? Low taxes, predictable and limited regulation, and restrained government spending. Reagan noted that the Lone Star State stands as an example the rest of the nation should be emulating. In fact, many states want to do so. Earlier this year, a contingent of lawmakers from California traveled to Austin to meet with Governor Perry to try to figure out just what Texas was doing to make it such an attractive destination for relocating California businesses and residents. As the son of the former California governor, he said, "I can appreciate the irony of a Golden State contingent traveling to Texas to learn the lessons originally taught by Ronald Reagan."

Too, may I add that we also need less federal and local government interference to allow businesses to thrive premised solidly on the free enterprise system. Statutory dictates have done the exact opposite. The free enterprise system works and it is the proven tool of our country for more than 200 plus years. I associate myself with Reagan's view: Let's return to basics and limited government!

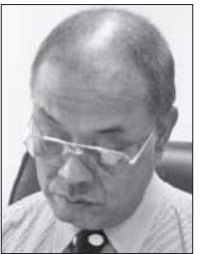
■ ■ ■

Re-establishing a functional working relationship may be difficult. But we must take a deep breath and take the proverbial first step together. Both sides of the Pacific Divide was busy killing the goose that lays the golden egg, mindless of the consequences that have devoured revenue generation in recent past.

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



Obviously, each side means well but each had interpreted the work of the other as insultingly invasive or intrusive. This need not be the case. In fact, we can all return to the table once more with completely new paradigms and an open mind to speak *with* one another rather than *to* each other!

An excellent example of policies best left at the local level is minimum wage. The imposition of the federal minimum wage at 50 cents per year increase until it reaches federal level has resulted in a 35-percent job loss per a U.S. GAO report issued last week. It confirms the irrelevance and out of sync intent versus results that simply destroys our country's forte—the free enterprise system.

In brief, wages should be left to local governments. We've seen how a healthy economy easily accommodates salary increases for its employees, including year-end bonuses. But when we trip, let's do it the Japanese way—everybody sacrifices until the economy returns to normalcy. It's the free enterprise system! This and other issues can definitely be worked out amicably between our benefactors in Washington and the NMI. After all, Rome and our country weren't built overnight. And even with time and due diligence, there remains larger challenges ahead in this century for all countries struggling to attain self-sufficiency via methods that work best even in bad economic times, Reaganomics!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A view from the top

This is in response to my friend, Efrain Camacho, who probably is sitting in one of his penthouse offices atop his beautiful commercial buildings at the Marianas Heights Business Park in Puerto Rico. I truly admire Mr. Camacho's gamble in the business sector to spend millions of dollars to build two luxurious buildings next to a former federally-planned dump and noisy island power plant.

However, Mr. Camacho's gamble has paid off. He has beaten the odds with many good-paying tenants, e.g., Bank of Hawaii, The Consular Office of Japan, various high-priced attorneys, several federal agencies, etc. Did he target local renters, I wonder?

I also wonder if Mr. Camacho had all facts and leases in front of him when he built the first building. Maybe he did have the lease of the Bank of Hawaii, which most likely helped him with the construction money, although the rest of the leases were probably just a dream until later. I want Mr. Camacho to show me all his facts and pre-building leases that he had signed and banked away. How was he justified in building his empire?

Now in this present day of severe economic turmoil, closing businesses, rising power costs, and austerity hardship of private and public workers on Saipan, Mr. Camacho looks down upon us and preaches that Saipan should not take a gamble and try to build a casino gaming industry that has prospered elsewhere, e.g., 1) 35 out of the 50 states in the United States with a total of 872 casinos, including 28 in New Mexico with a new one beginning construc-

tion in June 2011; 2) 17 casinos in Puerto Rico and one in the Virgin Islands (source: Wikipedia: List of U.S. casinos). Does he have no confidence in the people of Saipan to make casino gambling a success? Why hasn't he spoken out against poker parlors that were legislated for local gambling in 1983? He is wrong in his statements that poker machines were targeted for tourists. It was intended for locals as stated in the "Legislative Findings" of Public Law 3-70: "The Legislature finds that certain forms of betting and gambling require a higher degree of skill or knowledge to win, and so many are readily accepted by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. These forms include poker machines, bingo, raffles, batu, and cockfighting."

What facts does he want about the casino gaming industry that is easily available on the Internet? Check the success rates for international casinos around the world.

Saipan is a tourist destination and tourists love to play and have adventure. Think of successful tourist areas like Las Vegas, Atlantic City, the Caribbean, Europe, Macau (China), etc. According to the World Casino Directory and Wikipedia, the United States has casinos in most of its states, and they provide hundred of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in revenue.

Mr. Camacho makes references about New Mexico having problems with its casinos, which seems opposite to the information on the Internet. He mentions he spoke with New Mexico ca-

sino operators and they say it costs a lot to regulate the casinos in New Mexico. Of course it costs extra money because it's simple math to figure that, with the growth and success of new casinos in New Mexico, it's going to cost more money. The relative cost of operating a multitude of casinos in New Mexico as compared to Saipan's few casinos is within Saipan's capabilities. Mr. Camacho asks where will the money come from to regulate the Saipan gaming industry. Well, where does his money come from to pay his loans and to renovate and maintain his buildings: the money comes from his renters, as compared to the revenues from the casinos will pay for Saipan's casino regulation. Furthermore, when Mr. Camacho had more renters, didn't he expand to a second building?

New Mexico has a thriving gaming industry (28 casinos at last count) and still there are new ones being planned and built. So, is New Mexico failing with its casino businesses? I don't think so. Can Saipan be successful? We won't know unless we try. By the way, Mr. Camacho, it's the casino investors who are actually taking the risk in bringing their casinos to Saipan. So, what is your real worry?

So, let's give Saipan and the Northern Islands a chance to try its luck. We just need to offer attractive legislation and good locations for them to be successful. What can we lose? Speaking of losing big time, right now more and more people on Saipan are losing their jobs, businesses, and livelihoods.

Well, it must be nice at the top, Mr. Camacho, but don't forget the people down below struggling to make their lives better.

Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres

Capital Hill, Saipan

Reply to 'A real history lesson'

I am sorry to take so long to reply but I have been laughing every day since receiving your last attempt at writing and teaching.

First, some corrections: I am not Mayer Arizona. I am Franklin Keiper. It is disrespectful not to address someone by their name. Secondly, Mr Evilsizer, if you were joking when you invited me to attend your history class, that is no problem. If you were trying to talk down to me or insult me you should apologize to me in the letter to the editor section. I am a master teacher, certified in Arizona until 2014. My certification authorizes me to teach 11 different subjects from grade 5 to 12. In 1997 I came to Saipan for the first time, as a retired teacher, and they gave me the same certification.

You made your statements from "local history." Local history is not always correct. An example, your highly respected professor, now retired from your local college, taught in a seminar that "the first white

men who came to Guam shot and killed some local Chamorros." The ship's captain, he said, was Magellan. I corrected him, saying this captain and his crew were Portuguese. They are brown-skinned men, like the Spanish and Chamorros. Local history may or may not be correct. If that is all you are teaching your students, you are not giving them a full account. You also need to study state, federal, and world history to get a full picture of people and events.

Now you want to separate the CNMI from America—I say go for it! Get the local people to go up to Capital Hill and demand that the governor and the Legislature end their association with America immediately. Several things would happen, Mr Evilsizer. The U.S. government would take the U.S. Army reserve off Saipan. Perhaps those big American planes would no longer come to the CNMI or people would need a visa to get into Saipan from Guam,

etc. However, that would not be the most terrible thing to happen. The PSS budget, Mr Evilsizer, the PSS budget received \$16 million last year from the USA to pay half of the PSS budget. If you separate from the USA, half of PSS' budget will not be there next year. Your salary would be cut in half. Utility and maintenance would be cut in half. School buses would only run every other day. One half of CNMI teachers would have to be laid off and half of the schools closed down. Perhaps sports and music would have to be cut as well. Remember, I told you in my first email to look into the waters before you jump out of your ship! By all means, if you get your wish, don't go to Tinian. Since 1945, Tinian has received \$12 million rent every year for the old WWII bomber base. Tinian would lose all of that money. The U.S. would save a lot of money. Are you sure you want to depart?






Franklin Keiper

Mayer, Arizona

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 83 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 78

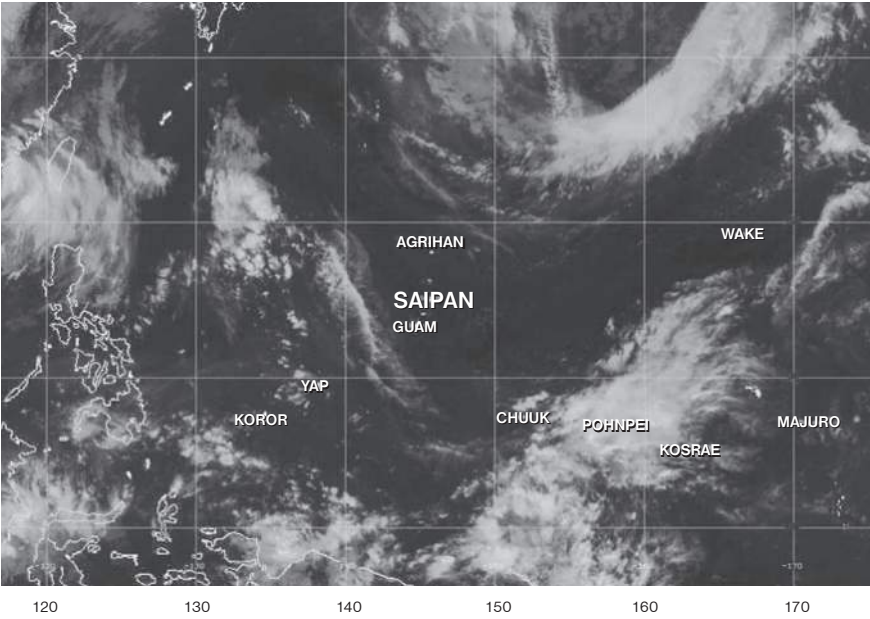
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 51
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 92 ▼ 69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 81 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
New York	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 70
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 75
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 54
Pusan	Windy	▲ 78 ▼ 71
Rome	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 68
Salem	Rain	▲ 68 ▼ 57
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 53
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲ 79 ▼ 70
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 91 ▼ 69

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
5:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	-0.3 Feet
8:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Divergent upper-level winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well west-northwest of the Marianas between 16N and 24N from 131E to 136E. A near-equatorial trough curves southeastward from 6N130E through a week circulation centered south of Chuuk near 4N152E then turns northeastward to end northeast of Pohnpei at 11N159E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present near the trough In two areas. The first area is south of Koror or south of a line from 6N130E to 1N143E. The second area is southeast of Chuuk and over Pohnpei or within 250 miles of a line from EQ153E to 12N162E. A cold front curves south of 25N from 25N150E to 23N154E to beyond 25N at 163E. This front is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of the front.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:37 AM	4:57 PM
Thursday	4:29 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	5:25 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	7:35 PM
Sunday	7:21 AM	8:24 PM

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
				OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6				via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
				OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Japan utility behind damaged nuke plant apologizes

TOKYO (AP)—Executives at the Japanese utility behind the nuclear power plant sent into meltdown by the March quake apologized Tuesday to investors who repeatedly interrupted the annual meeting of shareholders with heckles, yells and outraged questions.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. Chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata promised that the company was doing its utmost to bring radiation leaks under control. He said it would speedily compensate people forced to evacuate the area around the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant and farms whose products were banned because of radiation contamination.

"All of us directors apologize deeply for the troubles and fears that the accident has caused," he said at a Tokyo hotel. "The entire group will work together to resolve this crisis as soon as possible."

But the meeting was punctuated by outbursts of emotion, as



Greenpeace protesters in protective gear hold a banner as shareholders arrive for the annual shareholders' meeting of Tokyo Electric Power Co. in Tokyo on Tuesday June 28, 2011

one by one, shareholders, their voices shaking, said the utility had ignored warnings about

the dangers of nuclear power, the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant had been inadequately

prepared for a tsunami, and the amount of radiation spewing into the air and water had not

been fully disclosed.

One shareholder cried out that the executives should all jump into the reactor and die to take responsibility for the fiasco.

The disaster at Fukushima Dai-ichi has erased about 90 percent of the value of TEPCO stock, once considered a safe investment.

Fuel rods have melted at three of the plant's reactors after a March 11 earthquake set off a tsunami that knocked out cooling systems, causing the world's worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl. The quake and tsunami killed more than 23,000 people and damaged farms, ports and hundreds of suppliers of parts to the auto and electronics industries.

Leaking radiation forced the evacuation of thousands of residents, and the perilous struggle to contain the reactors is expected to continue into next year.

Despite the anger, many of those attending the meeting welcomed executives' remarks with enthusiastic applause.

They quickly defeated with a show of hands the first proposal from a shareholder, who demanded Katsumata be replaced in chairing the meeting by someone else, who could better address the nuclear crisis.

The top shareholders of the utility include Japanese financial institutions and the Tokyo metropolitan government, making it relatively easy to fill the meeting with participants supportive of management.

But the outrage from the public was clear by the frequent shouting. Reporters were not allowed to attend the meeting but could watch the proceedings from a monitor at TEPCO headquarters.

Although most of the executives' remarks were routine, addressing earnings and power supply, the shareholder who demanded a different chair, stressed that an apology and promises were not enough and said the whole world was suffering from the nuclear disaster. She did not give her name.

Recession forces states to rethink tourism funding

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—Like a business trying to sell a product, Washington state has for years attracted visitors by promoting stunning images of some of the nation's most majestic scenery—from the snowcapped peaks of the Cascades to the rainforests and thundering waterfalls of the Olympic Peninsula.

That marketing is now coming to an abrupt end.

By the end of this week, Washington will close its official tourism agency and become the only state to cease all state funding for self-promotion. It's just one example of how states are coping with budget deficits brought on

by slumping tax revenue.

"When you're taking kids off health care and raising tuition, you have to make some tough decisions," said Senate Republican Leader Mike Hewitt, who has for years sat on a commission that guides Washington's tourism strategy.

In May, the state Legislature eliminated the remaining funding for the tourism agency, about \$2 million for the coming fiscal year. State support had been as high as \$7 million in years past.

Not all states are following Washington's approach. Some view tourism as a key industry

that will contribute to an economic rebound, one that is worthy of state support even in an era of declining revenue for other services.

Michigan, surrounded by the Great Lakes, is pouring millions of dollars into marketing campaigns, hoping for any advantage in the competition for the small amount of discretionary cash consumers are willing to spend on travel.

Even though Michigan has consistently had one of the nation's highest unemployment rates, it will spend about \$25 million this year on marketing. That is five times the budget it had for self-promotion just six years ago.

The state's tourism industry contributes a small amount.

Michigan is now in the middle of its largest national advertising buy—spending more than \$11 million to splash its "Pure Michigan" message on cable. George Zimmermann, vice president for Travel Michigan, said research indicates that a dollar spent on out-of-state advertising returns \$3.29 in tax money alone—and much more for businesses.

"It's a bit of a no-brainer," Zimmerman said. "Tourism is not the answer to restoring the Michigan economy, but we do believe it's one of the answers."

IMF could pick Lagarde as chief as soon as Tuesday

WASHINGTON (AP)—French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde is expected to be chosen as early as Tuesday to be the new leader of the International Monetary Fund.

Lagarde would be the first woman to lead the lending organization. She would replace Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who resigned last month after being charged with sexually assaulting a New York City hotel housekeeper. Lagarde was opposed by Agustin Carstens, a Mexican central banker whose candidacy never caught fire, even among developing countries.

Lagarde has broad support

in Europe. And a high-ranking Chinese official said Monday that Beijing supports Lagarde, according to several reports.

U.S. officials haven't publicly backed any candidate. But most analysts expect the Obama administration to support Lagarde. Combined, the United States, Europe and China hold a majority of votes on the IMF's board.

The 24-member executive board represents the 187 members of the IMF, which lends to financially troubled countries. The board members will seek to agree on a new managing director by consensus. The IMF's board will meet Tuesday.

Lagarde's selection will likely provoke protests from developing countries. Under an informal arrangement dating to the end of World War II, a European always leads the IMF and an American runs its sister organization, the World Bank. The United States also names the IMF's top deputy. Developing nations have pushed to open the positions to candidates outside the United States and Europe.

Analysts say Europe and the United States aren't willing to give up their privileges. And key developing countries, such as China, India and Brazil, tend to regard each other as rivals rather

than allies. Carstens complained that he was at a disadvantage from the start because European officials moved quickly to close ranks behind Lagarde.

Lagarde, 55, led the Chicago-based law firm Baker & McKenzie before entering French politics in 2005.

Her supporters have argued that a European should lead the fund because Greece, Ireland and Portugal are now among the IMF's biggest borrowers. Lagarde helped lead negotiations for a bailout package last year that combined European Union and IMF funds in a pool to aid highly indebted European countries.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Iranian oil minister says OPEC strains solvable

VIENNA (AP)—Iran's oil minister has acknowledged strains within OPEC after its last meeting exposed deep rifts between his country and rival Saudi Arabia, but said the organization can solve them internally. Monday's comments by Mohammad Aliabadi and other OPEC officials appeared to be an attempt to patch up the image of the 12-nation oil producing organization after it ended an abortive June 6 meeting split into two camps—one led by Iran, the other by the Saudis. Iran, which holds the OPEC rotating presidency, wanted to keep output steady and supplies tight. The Saudis sought a decision to increase levels—and they and their Gulf allies have since moved to boost production by themselves, shattering the image of OPEC unity.

Can't ban violent video sales to kids, court says

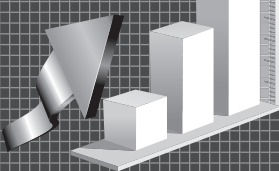
WASHINGTON (AP)—States cannot ban the sale or rental of ultraviolent video games to children, the Supreme Court ruled Monday, rejecting such limits as a vio-

lation of young people's First Amendment rights and leaving it up to parents and the multibillion-dollar gaming industry to decide what kids can buy. The high court, on a 7-2 vote, threw out California's 2005 law covering games sold or rented to those under 18, calling it an unconstitutional violation of free-speech rights. Writing for the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia, said, "Even where the protection of children is the object, the constitutional limits on governmental action apply."

Tribune Co. seeks approval of bankruptcy plan

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Tribune Co. and some of its creditors asked a federal judge on Monday to approve a plan that would let the company emerge from more than two years under bankruptcy protection. A separate group of creditors are opposing the plan. Those creditors want the judge to approve a competing reorganization plan. Judge Kevin Carey heard several hours of closing arguments but did not say when he would rule on either plan.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,043.60	1,280.10	2,688.28
108.98	11.65	35.39
0.91%	0.92%	1.33%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9564	Indian Rupee	44.9925	Singapore Dollar	1.2416
	British Pound	0.6263	Indonesian Rupiah	8,627.50	South Korean Won	1,084.745
	Canadian Dollar	0.9859	Japanese Yen	80.8150	Swiss Franc	0.8356
	Chinese Yuan	6.4710	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0408	Taiwan Dollar	28.9190
	Euro	0.6997	New Zealand Dollar	1.2435	Thailand Baht	30.7115

Nation

Jury convicts ex-Ill. Gov. Blagojevich at retrial

CHICAGO (AP)—Rod Blagojevich, who won two terms as Illinois governor before scandal made him a national punch line, was convicted Monday of a wide range of corruption charges, including trying to sell President Barack Obama's Senate seat.

The verdict, coming after his first trial ended last year with the jury deadlocked on most charges, was a bitter defeat for Blagojevich, who spent 2 1/2 years professing his innocence on reality TV shows and later on the witness stand. His defense team insisted that hours of FBI wiretap recordings were just the ramblings of a politician who liked to think out loud.

Blagojevich becomes the second straight Illinois governor convicted of corruption. His predecessor, George Ryan, is now serving 6 1/2 years in federal prison.

When sentenced later this year, Blagojevich is virtually certain to get a significant prison term that experts said could be 10 to 15 years.

After hearing the verdict, Blagojevich turned to defense attorney Sheldon Sorosky and asked "What happened?" His wife, Patti, slumped against her brother, then rushed into her husband's arms.

Before the decision was read, the couple looked flushed, and the former governor blew his wife a kiss across the courtroom, then stood expressionless, with his hands clasped tightly.

The verdict capped a long-running spectacle in which Blagojevich became famous for blurring on a recorded phone call that his ability to appoint Obama's successor to the Senate was "f---ing golden" and that he wouldn't let it go "for f---ing nothing."

The 54-year-old Democrat, who has been free on bond since shortly after his arrest, spoke only briefly with reporters as he left the courthouse, saying he was disappointed and stunned by the verdict.

"Well, among the many lessons I've learned from this whole experience is to try to speak a little bit less, so I'm going to keep my remarks kind of short," Blagojevich said, adding that the couple wanted "to get home to our little girls and talk to them and explain things to them and then try to sort things out." His two daughters are 8 and 14.

The case exploded into scandal when Blagojevich was awakened by federal agents on Dec. 9, 2008, at his Chicago home and was led away in handcuffs. Federal prosecu-



Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich greets supporters as he arrives home in Chicago, Monday, June 27, 2011, after a jury convicted him of 17 of the 20 charges against him, including all 11 charges related to his attempt to sell or trade President Barack Obama's vacated Senate seat.

tors had been investigating his administration for years, and some of his closest cronies had already been convicted.

Blagojevich was swiftly impeached and removed from office.

The verdict provided affirmation to U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, one of the nation's

most prominent prosecutors, who, after the governor's arrest, had condemned Blagojevich's dealings as a "political corruption crime spree."

On Monday, he said the key question for the jury was whether to accept the defense suggestion that Blagojevich's activities amounted to "the kind of politi-

cal wheeling and dealing that is common in Illinois and around the country."

"That," said Fitzgerald, his voice rising, "couldn't be any further from the truth. ... Selling a Senate seat, shaking down a children's hospital and squeezing a person to give money before you sign a bill that benefits them

is not a gray area. It's a crime."

Fitzgerald also addressed a question that has hung over the case ever since Blagojevich was arrested: Why did authorities not wait until the governor actually made a deal for the Senate seat? Doing so might have helped ensnare other conspirators.

A U.S. Senate seat "should not be put up for sale. You should not let the sale happen. ... Our job is to try to prevent crime, not just prosecute crime," he said.

Fitzgerald pledged to retry the governor after the first jury failed to reach a decision on all but the least serious of 24 charges against him.

On Monday, the jury voted to convict on 17 of 20 counts after deliberating nine days. Blagojevich also faces up to five additional years in prison for his previous conviction of lying to the FBI.

Blagojevich was acquitted of soliciting bribes in the alleged shakedown of a road-building executive. The jury deadlocked on two charges of attempted extortion related to that executive and funding for a school.

Judge James Zagel has barred Blagojevich from traveling outside the area without permission. A status hearing to discuss sentencing was set for Aug. 1.

Elderly woman has to remove diaper for pat-down

DESTIN, Fla. (AP)—A gravely ill 95-year-old woman had to remove her wet diaper at an airport so that she could be patted down by security screeners and nearly missed her flight, her daughter said Monday.

During the pat-down, Transportation Security Administration inspectors found a mass on Lena Reppert's upper thigh, her daughter Jean Weber said. The mass was a hard spot on the diaper that had become heavy and concentrated in that place because it was wet. Reppert, who is in a wheelchair, had to be patted down because she couldn't go through a scanning machine, and the TSA agents said they could not search the diaper while she was still wearing it, Weber said.

Reppert couldn't board a June 18 flight from Northwest Florida Regional Airport in Fort Walton Beach to Detroit until she was cleared by security, Weber said. Reppert, who has leukemia and had been living in the Florida Panhandle, was returning to her native Hastings, Mich., where she wants to be buried.

Weber, a waitress, said she was told the diaper would have to be removed so the agents could finish their pat-down. They had not packed any extra diapers in their carry-on because her mother has never needed backups before.

"She had to remove them," Weber said. "She

would not be cleared with those Depends on."

TSA officials said the agency's inspectors did nothing wrong and followed proper procedure. Spokesman Nick Kimball also said the officers did not force Reppert to remove the diaper.

"While every person and item must be screened before entering the secure boarding area, TSA works with passengers to resolve security alarms in a respectful and sensitive manner," Kimball said.

Officials offered to pull their luggage off the plane so Reppert could change into a clean diaper, but Weber said she feared her mother, a retired nurse, would miss her flight.

"She is frail. I had arranged for these times because it's the time she was the strongest every day," Weber said. "I just did not want to put her through some kind of wait."

However, Weber said the agents would not allow her to remove the diaper in the screening room—so she had to take her mother to a restroom outside the security area, and then wait in line to be screened again. The second time, Weber said she triggered an alarm herself because she was upset and crying.

They tested her purse for chemicals while her mother finished her pat-down in private, she said. By then, she had lost her pass allowing her to escort her mother to her gate and asked airport workers to take the woman.



This undated photo provided by Jean Weber shows her mother, Lena Reppert.

Wildfire shuts Los Alamos lab, forces evacuations

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP)—Thousands of residents calmly fled the town that's home to the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory as a rapidly-growing wildfire approached, sending up towering plumes of smoke, raining down ash and charring the fringes of the sprawling lab's property.

The blaze, which began Sunday, had destroyed 30 structures south of Los Alamos and forced the closure of the lab while stirring memories of a devastating blaze in May 2000 that destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings.

"The hair on the back of your neck goes up," Los Alamos County fire chief Doug Tucker said of

first seeing the fire in the Santa Fe National Forest on Sunday. "I saw that plume and I thought, 'Oh my god here we go again.'"

Tucker said the current blaze—which had grown to roughly 50,000 acres, or 78 square miles by midday Monday—was the most active fire he had seen in his career. By midafternoon, it had jumped a highway and burned an acre of land on the outskirts of the lab's 36-square mile complex.

Lab officials assured that radioactive material stored at various locations on the lab property was safe from the flames.

The anti-nuclear watchdog group Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety said the fire ap-

peared to be about 3 1/2 miles from a dumpsite where as many as 30,000 55-gallon drums of plutonium-contaminated waste were stored in fabric tents above ground. The group said the drums were awaiting transport to a low-level radiation dump site in southern New Mexico.

Lab spokesman Steve Sandoval declined to comment on that assertion, but did acknowledge there is low level waste stored in drums on lab property that is regularly taken to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project site in Carlsbad.

"We have stuff like gloves that are used in research that are packaged in 55 gallon-drums and shipped down to WIPP," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Investigators piece together Nevada Amtrak crash

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Workers wearing hazmat suits dug through burnt-out rail cars and twisted metal Monday at the scene of a horrific collision between a tractor-trailer and an Amtrak train as new details surfaced about the spotty driving record of the man at the wheel of the truck. Records from the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles revealed that truck driver Lawrence R. Valli, 43, of Winnemucca received four speeding tickets since 2008, including three for driving a school

bus over the posted speed limit in California in a 10-month period. National Transportation Safety Board member Earl Weener said Valli was going "at a considerable speed" in a 70 mph zone before the crash, and added that federal investigators were examining the truck's wheels, tires and brakes for details on the exact speed and the truck's braking capacity.

Casey Anthony found competent, trial resumes

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Casey Anthony is competent to remain

on trial for murder in the death of her 2-year-old daughter, a judge ruled Monday after examining reports by three psychologists who examined her over the weekend. Also on the 29th day of testimony, Anthony's attorneys asked Judge Belvin Perry to declare a mistrial and select a new jury, citing a ruling on Florida's death penalty. Attorneys told the judge they did not believe their 25-year-old client is competent, based on privileged discussions with her. They did not elaborate what led them to that conclusion in a motion filed Saturday and sealed until the judge's ruling.

Asia

Lost penguin more lively, eating fish post-surgery

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's favorite penguin visitor is more lively and eating fish after undergoing endoscopic surgery Monday to remove some of the beach sand and twigs it swallowed, apparently mistaking it for snow.

Full recovery for the young emperor penguin—affectionately dubbed Happy Feet—may take months, and officials are unsure when or how it could return home to the Antarctic, about 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) away. The bird was recovering well after the an endoscopy performed by one of New Zealand's leading surgeons—for human patients.

Doctors at the Wellington Zoo guided a camera on a tube through the penguin's swollen intestines and flushed its stomach to remove the swallowed sand and pieces of driftwood. Penguins eat snow to hydrate themselves during the harsh Antarctic winter.

To ensure the health of its



This photo released by the Wellington Zoo, shows an x-ray of an emperor penguin at the Wellington Zoo on June 24, 2011 in Wellington, New Zealand.

newest star, the zoo brought in Wellington Hospital specialist John Wyeth to help with the procedure, New Zealand Press Association reported.

Monday's surgery went well, and doctors removed

about half of the remaining sand and several twigs from the bird's digestive system, zoo spokeswoman Kate Baker said. Medical staff hope the rest of the debris will pass naturally, but an X-ray is sched-

uled for Wednesday.

"It's positive news, but he's definitely not out of the woods yet," Baker said.

The penguin is now dining on fish slurry and has been standing and appearing more active

than when it arrived, Baker said. The bird was moved to the zoo Friday after its health worsened on the beach.

The penguin is being housed in a room at the zoo chilled to about 46 degrees Fahrenheit (8 degrees Celsius), Baker said, and has a bed of ice on which it can sleep.

Happy Feet, nicknamed from the 2006 animated movie, was discovered last week on a North Island beach, the first spotting of an emperor in New Zealand in 44 years. Emperors typically spend their entire lives around Antarctica.

After landing on Peka Peka Beach last week, the penguin appeared healthy at first, but it became dehydrated, suffered heat exhaustion and was eating large amounts of sand.

What's next for Happy Feet still remains to be decided.

Peter Simpson, the program manager of diversity for the Department of Conservation, said he is meeting with penguin experts Wednesday at the zoo to con-

sider options. He said it's not simply a matter of tossing the penguin back into the ocean off New Zealand's coast.

"There's no great rush to decide," Simpson said. "It will most likely need more medical work over the next three months."

Simpson said the penguin will likely remain at the zoo for that time while it recovers.

Gareth Morgan, a New Zealand investment adviser, has offered to transport the penguin back to Antarctica next February when he leads an expedition to the southern continent. But Simpson said that, while officials appreciate the offer, they may want to act before then.

Simpson said the penguin may be older than experts first thought—perhaps up to 2 1/2 years old rather than the initial estimate of 10 months. It stands about 3 feet (80 centimeters) high.

Experts still don't know if it's a male or female, Simpson said, although DNA samples should soon provide an answer.

Gunmen kill senior Pakistani Taliban commander

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen killed a senior Pakistani Taliban commander Monday who helped train and deploy the group's suicide bombers, while suspected U.S. drone missile strikes killed 20 alleged militants elsewhere in the northwest, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

Shakirullah Shakir was riding on a motorcycle near Miran Shah, the main town in the North Waziristan tribal area, when gunmen riding in a car with tinted windows shot him, the officials said.

Shakir was a senior commander and spokesman for the Fidayeen-e-Islam wing of the Pakistani Taliban. He once claimed to a local newspaper that his group had trained more than 1,000 suicide bombers at camps in North Waziristan.

No group has claimed responsibility for his killing.

Both North Waziristan and South Waziristan are key sanctuaries for the Pakistani Taliban, which has declared war on the U.S.-allied Pakistani government.

Missiles believed to have been fired by a U.S. drone hit a pickup truck in the Dra Nishtar area of South Waziristan on Monday,



Pakistani police officers examine the damaged vehicles, a day after Taliban militants attacked at a police station, Sunday, June 26, 2011 in Kolachi near Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan.

killing eight suspected militants, Pakistani intelligence officials said. Dra Nishtar is a Pakistani Taliban stronghold near the border with North Waziristan and has been hit twice before by suspected U.S. drones in recent months.

Hours later, a suspected U.S. drone fired two missiles at a compound in Manto, located about 30 miles (45 kilometers) northwest of Wana, the main town in South Waziristan, killing 12 alleged militants, said Pakistani intelligence officials.

The Pakistani officials all spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The Pakistani military launched a large ground offensive in South Waziristan in 2009, but Pakistani Taliban fighters are still active in the area.

The U.S. refuses to publicly acknowledge the covert CIA drone program in Pakistan, but officials have said privately that the strikes have killed many Taliban and al-Qaida commanders.

The Pakistani government is widely believed to support the program, even though officials regularly protest the strikes as violations of the country's sovereignty—a message that plays well with Pakistani citizens, who widely dislike the U.S.

But future Pakistani cooperation has become less certain after the unilateral U.S. commando raid that killed al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden last month in an army town not far from the Pakistani capital. The U.S. kept the raid secret from Pakistan, which humiliated the country and elicited calls for the government to end its cooperation with Washington.

Elsewhere in the northwest, a senior Pakistani Taliban commander said Monday that he is splitting from the group to protest attacks against civilians, a rare criticism of the militants by one of their own.

Fazal Saeed said he is forming his own militant group, Tehrik-e-Taliban Islami, and will focus on fighting NATO troops in Afghanistan. The Pakistani Taliban, or Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, is mainly focused on battling the Pakistani government.

Bangladesh jails 657 border guards for 2009 mutiny

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Hundreds of Bangladeshi border guards who challenged the government in a deadly 2009 mutiny have been sentenced to up to seven years in prison.

The bloody mutiny—which killed 74 people, most of them commanding officers—erupted at a crucial time for Bangladesh's troubled democracy, just two months after the powerful military had handed power over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's newly elected government.

The guards began the revolt in late February 2009 during an annual gathering in the capital of Dhaka. They said they were fighting against alleged discrimination and demanding parity in pay and other perks enjoyed by commanding army officers.

The mutineers opened fire, blocked roads and drove officers out of their offices and homes. Fifty-seven commanders, including the head of the paramilitary border security agency, were among the dead.

The uprising quickly spread across the impoverished country that has struggled for decades with shaky democracy and chronic flooding that has stymied economic development. The military has backed 21 coups since the country's 1971 independence from Pakistan.

A court on Monday sentenced 108 border guards to seven-year prison sentences, and another 549 guards to sentences ranging between four months to six years, the force's chief Maj. Gen. Rafiqul Islam said.

Hundreds of others charged in the case have yet to face the special court handling mutiny cases.

The military has been angry with Hasina's handling of the mutiny, which ended in negotiations and offers of amnesty for mutiny leaders.

The government rescinded the amnesty offers, however, after dozens of bodies were found dumped in shallow graves and sewers. Hasina has pledged justice for the victims' families.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Top surviving Khmer Rouge leaders go on trial

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The top four surviving members of the brutal Khmer Rouge went on trial Monday before a tribunal aimed at finding justice for the estimated 1.7 million people who died in Cam-

bodia's "killing fields" of the 1970s. With the aging leaders all in their late 70s or early 80s and with Khmer Rouge overlord Pol Pot long dead, the trial before the U.N.-backed panel represents the last, best chance for Cambodia to bring accountability to the Khmer Rouge leadership blamed for the deaths. All four of the de-

fendants say they are innocent.

First individual Chinese tourists arrive in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The first individual Chinese tourists have begun arriving in Taiwan amid steadily warming ties between the two sides. Dozens

arrived Tuesday, underscoring Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou's continuing efforts to forge closer China relations, the centerpiece of his 3-year-old administration. Previously Chinese tourists could only travel to Taiwan in supervised groups. Last year 1.6 million Chinese tourists visited the island.

Japan PM adds Cabinet jobs on tsunami, nuke crisis

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's prime minister on Monday created two Cabinet posts to oversee the nuclear crisis and tsunami reconstruction efforts as he hopes to shore up his administration against criticism of its

handling of the crises. Prime Minister Naoto Kan named Ryu Matsumoto as reconstruction minister and made Goshi Hosono his minister in charge of handling the crisis at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. He also gave special advisory positions to two other senior politicians.

World

Court orders arrest of Gadhafi, son, key aide

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Thousands of jubilant Libyans danced and cheered in the streets of the rebel stronghold of Benghazi after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant Monday for Moammar Gadhafi, accusing him of crimes against humanity for killing civilians who rose up against his rule.

The court order raised pressure on the Gadhafi regime, already targeted by daily airstrikes, and NATO clearly hopes it will encourage key allies to abandon him. But it also gives Gadhafi less incentive to accept a peaceful settlement that would see him leave power—something he has shown no indication of doing—because of the subsequent threat of arrest.

The court in The Hague, Netherlands, lacks police powers, and the force most likely to arrest Gadhafi appears to be the rebels battling to oust him.

At the United Nations, political affairs chief B. Lynn Pascoe said the rebels now hold a tenuous military advantage over Gadhafi's forces. The rebels have failed to penetrate the Libyan leader's center of power in Tripoli and conceded Monday they are unlikely to detain Gadhafi on their own.

Warrants were also issued for Gadhafi's son Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, whom he has groomed as his successor, and for Libyan intelligence chief Abdullah al-Sanousi. All three men were accused of orchestrating the killing, injuring, arrest and im-



Judges Sylvia Steiner, Sanji Mmasenono Monageng and Cuno Tarfusser, back row, from left, are seen in the courtroom in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday June 27, 2011.

prisonment of hundreds of civilians during the first 12 days of an uprising to topple Gadhafi from power, and for trying to cover up their alleged crimes.

Presiding Judge Sanji Monageng of Botswana said Gadhafi had "absolute, ultimate and unquestioned control" over his country's military and security forces. She said prosecutors presented evidence showing that following popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, Gadhafi and his inner circle plotted a "state policy ... aimed at deterring and quelling by any means—including by the use of lethal force—demonstrations by civilians against the regime."

Hundreds of civilians were killed, injured or arrested, and

there were "reasonable grounds to believe" that Gadhafi and his son were both responsible for the murder and persecution of civilians, she said.

Gadhafi's regime rejected the court's authority and dismissed the charges as politically motivated.

"This court is nothing but a cover for the military operations of NATO," said Justice Minister Mohammed al-Qamudi. "The ICC does not really mean anything for us Libyans because we are not party to it and because it's merely a political tool for exerting pressure and political blackmail against sovereign countries. ... It has become clear that it's a tool of imperialism."

Hours after the arrest war-

rants were announced, dozens of pro-government supporters stormed the grounds of a Tripoli hotel where foreign journalists are required to stay, chanting slogans in support of the leader, who has held power since 1969. Defiant bursts of gunfire rang out across the capital into the evening.

By contrast, thousands of Libyans poured into Liberty Square in the eastern rebel stronghold of Benghazi, with women ululating and dancing and several men shooting celebratory gunfire in the air. The square echoed with chants of: "The blood of the martyrs will not be wasted" and "Freedom is here. Today we win."

Benghazi resident Mohammed al-Nazeif, 35, said the war-

rants made for the happiest day in his life.

"We want Gadhafi to be tried in Libya in front of everyone. Even if we die, our children will do the job," he said. "We never felt like we are human beings until today."

The warrant was the second issued for a sitting head of state since the court began work in 2002. Judges have twice issued warrants for Sudanese leader

Omar al-Bashir on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

The al-Bashir warrants underscore the court's key shortcoming: He has repeatedly exposed the impotence of a court without its own police force by traveling to friendly nations without being arrested. But he also has canceled other trips for fear he could be detained and sent to The Hague.



Source: ESRI
Graphic: Los Angeles Times

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Syrian opposition meet in Damascus

BEIRUT (AP)—Critics of Syria's authoritarian regime, at a rare gathering in Damascus, called Monday for a peaceful transition to democracy and an end to the Assad family's 40-year-old monopoly on power. Otherwise, they said, Syria's current chaos might destroy the country.

Almost 200 opposition figures and intellectuals gathered to produce "a vision about how to end tyranny," said an organizer.

While unprecedented in its size, the public meeting at a Damascus hotel—the first since the uprising against President Bashar Assad's rule began in March—had the government's approval, leading to criticism that the regime was trying to take on a veneer of openness while continuing its bloody crackdown on dissent. Many regime opponents stayed away for that reason.

Still, the dissident gathering, at which the government was unrepresented, would have been unthinkable a few months

ago in tightly controlled Syria. It came as the regime was reeling under the pressure of a relentless protest movement, and authorities were clearly anxious to show they were making concessions.

In a final communique, participants declared their support for the "popular uprising seeking a peaceful transition to a democratic, civil and pluralistic state" and called for an immediate end to the security crackdown and the army's withdrawal from towns and villages.

They also called for an independent committee to investigate the killings of Syrian citizens and soldiers, the release of all political prisoners, and the right to peaceful protests without the government's prior approval. Syria's state-run news agency, meanwhile, reported a national political dialogue planned by Assad would begin July 10, and "all factions, intellectual personalities, politicians" would be invited. As Assad had said in a June 20 speech, the agenda will include constitutional

amendments, including one to open the way to political parties other than the ruling Baath Party, the agency said.

The dissidents' meeting began with the Syrian national anthem, followed by a minute's silence in honor of the hundreds of Syrians who have been killed in the suppression of protests.

"We are meeting today ... to put forward a vision about how to end tyranny and ensure a peaceful and secure transition to the hoped-for state: the state of freedom, democracy and equality," Louay Hussein, a prominent writer and one of the organizers, said in an opening speech. The current regime should "perish," he added.

Michel Kilo, one of Syria's best-known writers and pro-democracy activists, called on the regime to immediately build trust with the opposition by allowing secular, nonviolent opposition parties to exist and by amending an article in the constitution that designates Assad's Baath party as "the leader of the state and society."

The only salvation is through a peaceful political transformation, Syrian scholar Munther Khaddam said at the conference. Otherwise, he said, "the alternative to that is the unknown, and the destruction of (Syrian) society," he said.

But some opposition figures and activists, both inside Syria and abroad, dismissed the meeting of 190 critics as an opportunity for the government to convey a false impression it's allowing space for dissent, rather than cracking down.

The opposition says some 1,400 people have been killed—most of them unarmed protesters—during the government crackdown on three months of street protests.

"This meeting will be exploited as a cover-up for the arrests, brutal killings and torture that is taking place on daily basis," said opposition figure Walid al-Bunni. He told The Associated Press from Damascus he was not invited to the conference because authorities had "vetoed" some names.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel preparing for September West Bank violence

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's military is making intensive preparations for an outbreak of violence in the West Bank over a U.N. vote in September on recognizing a Palestinian state, Israeli military officials said Monday. Palestinians, meanwhile, pushed ahead with their drive. Palestinian officials are fanning out around the world to raise support for their initiative. They hope to change the minds of U.S. leaders, who appear poised to veto a resolution in the U.N. Security Council to admit Palestine as a full member of the United Nations. For the first time, a senior Palestinian official described a fallback position Monday.

Allies say Chavez is improving after surgery

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Allies of President Hugo Chavez assured Venezuelans on Monday the leftist leader is firmly in control of the country and improving after emergency surgery in Cuba, comments meant to

dampen speculation about his health. Pro-Chavez lawmaker Cilia Flores told state television that Chavez "is fulfilling all of the responsibilities" under the constitution, and said she had spoken to him earlier in the day. "He's energetically giving us instructions," she said. Information Minister Andres Izarra told Union Radio that Chavez is recovering, adding: "We hope to have him here soon."

Russian officer guilty of betraying spy ring in US

MOSCOW (AP)—The cover of the highly placed U.S. mole in the Russian intelligence service was blown. Col. Alexander Poteyev had betrayed his ring of 10 sleeper spies—including Anna Chapman, the red-haired agent with the lingerie-model looks—and the FBI was about to nab them. Now he was at risk of being arrested by Russian authorities. Poteyev's plight last summer was so precarious that he had to rush from a meeting in his office for a train station to flee the country. He later texted his wife by cellphone that he was "leaving not for some time, but forever."

Focus

THE STORY OF A RAID

US night operations
anger AfghansBy HEIDI VOGT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUL-I-ALAM, Afghanistan (AP)—The American soldiers stormed into the Afghan family's compound in the middle of the night, kicking in doors and shouting. They ordered everyone into the yard, bound their hands, covered their heads and interrogated them for hours before taking away three men who had done nothing wrong.

At least that's the way the Afghans tell it.

NATO has a different account of the raid: A force led by Afghans was searching for a Taliban leader and got a tip from residents that three insurgents were living in the compound. The force struck at night when the suspects were likely to be home and took all three away for further questioning. The troops were as respectful as they could be, given that they had to make sure no one started shooting at them.

This happens in Afghanistan nearly every night. Sometimes the men turn out to be bombmakers or fighters, sometimes ordinary civilians. But in every case there are angry family members who feel violated or mistreated.

The U.S. will likely rely more and more on night raids as it shifts to a strategy of using special operators and drones to track down and kill Taliban leaders following President Barack Obama's announcement Wednesday that 30,000 U.S. troops will leave Afghanistan by next summer.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has repeatedly condemned night operations as unnecessary and humiliating.

Accounts of what happened at the Khosrawi family compound in eastern Logar province on June 8 show why night raids continue to be such a flash point, and why NATO may never be able to conduct them without making enemies.

This much everyone agrees on: Two of the men taken in the raid were released five days later. The third, a teenager, is still being held.

Relatives say even if all of them are eventually freed, they will still feel wronged.

"Even if he is a criminal, is it really necessary to charge into a man's house in the middle of the night when he is there with his children?" asked Samad Shah Khosrawi, a cousin of the detained men who works at the electric company in Kabul and has been trying to enlist powerful government allies to free the remaining detainee.

Nineteen-year-old Nooryalai Khosrawi, the older brother of the detained teenager, spoke to The Associated Press in Kabul a few days after the raid. He gave the following account:

The four families that live in the Khosrawi compound—25 people in all—went to sleep in their separate houses as usual. Sometime in the middle of the night, soldiers started jumping over the property wall and into the yard.

Nooryalai Khosrawi said he woke up when a soldier broke down the door to his room. When he opened his eyes a man was standing over him with a gun.

The soldiers took everyone outside into the courtyard, tied their wrists and put hoods over their heads. Nooryalai Khosrawi's youngest brother started sobbing. He pushed him to the ground to stop the crying. He was afraid it would antagonize the soldiers.

In this Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009 file photo taken with a night vision scope, U.S. Special Operations forces search a home during a joint operation with Afghan National Army soldiers targeting insurgents operating in Afghanistan's Farah province.

I just want them to show me some proof. If he is guilty of something, then fine, let them cut his throat.

The Americans took people to the corner of the compound one by one to ask them questions.

"They asked me, 'What did you do today and where did you go?' I said I went to school and back home," Nooryalai Khosrawi said. The Americans accused him of rigging one of the compound's motorcycles with explosives. He said it wasn't true.

Soldiers told him they had reports from elders in Sorayak village that insurgents were in the compound. He said the reports were wrong.

Although NATO says it conducts night raids only in partnership with Afghan forces and said numerous Afghan security forces were involved in the raid, Nooryalai Khosrawi said he saw only two Afghans in the force—and both were translators. The rest were American soldiers.

The Logar provincial police chief said only one Afghan security force member was involved in the operation, the district police commander.

"In special operations like this there are not a huge number of troops so we only sent one police representative,"

Ghulam Sakhi Rog Lewandi said in an interview in the provincial capital of Pul-i-Alam. He said he did not know how many U.S. troops were involved.

When they finished the questioning after two or three hours, the soldiers took the three men away with them, along with seven mobile phones they had confiscated. No one knew where they were going or if they'd see the captives again, Nooryalai Khosrawi said.

A NATO statement on the raid said that Afghan and international security forces went into the district in search of a Taliban leader who had overseen attacks against Afghan government officials and directed a bomb-making cell.

"The individuals were detained after the Afghan-led security force searched a suspected compound and questioned residents. The information provided led to their detention and the men were transported with the security force for additional questioning. No civilians were harmed during the night operation," NATO said.

Asked for further details on why the men were taken, a spokesman for the international coalition said such informa-

tion was classified for security reasons.

"As a matter of security, we don't discuss what information led to their detention. The information obtained during initial questioning led to their detention and they were taken for further questioning," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jason Haag.

The next day, the family tried to find out where the men had been taken and what they were accused of. Village elders went to the governor's office to petition for their release.

Samad Shah Khosrawi, the cousin, said the elders were told that the men had been wrongly arrested and that the governor was working for their release. The governor's spokesman told the AP the same day that the governor was working on the request but could not make any judgment on their guilt. Gov. Atiqullah Ludin told the AP just hours later that he had not been informed of the raid.

The elders also went to the provincial council. The council's spokesman told the AP that he had notified the unit which coordinates between Afghan and international forces, and that this unit was going to track down the de-

tainees. A spokesman for the unit told the AP that he had not received any information from the provincial council about a raid.

In Kabul, Samad Shah Khosrawi started asking anyone he knew in the government how he could track down his cousins and what he could do for their release. The two older men are shopkeepers, the younger is a student, he says he told them. They aren't Taliban. The Khosrawi family are ethnic Tajiks—a group less likely to be recruited into the insurgency than Pashtuns.

No one went to the police. Lewandi, the Logar police chief, said this likely meant the community knew they were guilty.

Samad Shah Khosrawi, the Kabul cousin, said no one in Sorayak has trusted the police since two years ago when police opened fire on villagers who went to try to help officers wounded when their vehicle struck a bomb.

"Three bullets killed my cousin's son," he said.

On June 13—five days after the raid—the family got a call: The two older men had been released to Afghan intelligence officers and then freed altogether.

Bashir Ahmad Khosrawi was one of the men who was taken. A 35-year-old shopkeeper, he said in a phone call after he was freed that he didn't know why he was taken.

He said he was held for four days by U.S. forces in a cell in Logar. His brother Sayed Agha Khosrawi was in the next cell.

The soldiers showed Ahmad photos they had taken of his family and asked who the people were. They showed him a map and asked him to point out specific villages. They went through the numbers in the mobile phones and asked who everyone was. They tested his hands for gunpowder residue.

"They thought we had someone from the enemy in our houses. I told them we were sleeping and you barged in at midnight and searched my whole house," he said. "They were trying to find some proof. But they couldn't find any proof."

He said he was treated well—no one so much as tapped him on his shoulder. Soldiers were friendly and asked after his health.

He was upset that they didn't return the captured mobile phones when they released him. But he said he wasn't going to go back and ask for them.

"We are just so happy to be free. We don't care about the mobiles," Bashir Ahmad Khosrawi said.

The men's release was a cause for celebration in Sorayak. People kept coming over to tell them that they thought the two brothers had disappeared for good.

They've yet to have any news of Noorzai Khosrawi, 16, who they assume must still be in the custody of U.S. forces.

"If he's innocent, he'll be released," said Lewandi, the police chief.

"I just want them to show me some proof," said Samad Shah Khosrawi. "If he is guilty of something, then fine, let them cut his throat."

Associated Press Writer Amir Shah contributed to this report. Follow Heidi Vogt at <http://www.twitter.com/heidivogt>

Campus Life

Pursuing scholarships is worth the college savings

By CLAUDIA BUCK
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

When it comes to snagging college scholarship money, Connor Quinn gets a solid "A" for effort.

In the last year, the 18-year-old high school student applied for more than 80 individual scholarships, offered by everyone from Best Buy to a Buddhist foundation.

How'd he do? So far, Quinn has collected 22 awards totaling \$22,700.

"The money's out there. You might as well try," says the Fair Oaks, Calif., resident, who graduated from high school last week.

With college tuition rates increasing and financial aid tightening, finding scholarship money is even more pressing for many students and their families.

The average annual tuition and room/board for a four-year public school is \$16,100 next year and \$36,900 for a private university, according to CollegeBoard.org.

That's what makes scholarships so appealing. Unlike student loans or financial aid, scholarships are free money that doesn't have to be repaid.

According to various financial aid estimates, there are annually more than 1 million scholarships dangling more than \$3 billion to worthy students.

But it takes some effort to land it. To get advice on how you or your student can pursue scholarship dollars, we spoke with Mark Kantrowitz, a national college financial aid expert and author of "Secrets to Winning a Scholarship." He's also the founder of two websites, FinAid.org (college financial aid tools) and FastWeb.com (a scholarship-matching service).

Overall, Kantrowitz has three words: Don't give up.

"You'll get far more rejections than you win. But the more you apply for, the more

STRATEGIES

FOR SURVIVING THE '90s

Getting college aid from Uncle Sam

With college costs rising at an alarming rate, most students and their families need financial assistance. One source of funds is federal aid programs, which award money based on need.

What is need?

- Difference between annual education expenses and what students and their families can afford to pay.

Types of federal aid

- Grants: Gifts that do not have to be paid back. Federal grants include the Pell Grant and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- Loans: Borrowed money that has to be paid back, often after the student finishes college. Some are obtained from financial institutions such as banks and credit unions; others are available through the college or university.
- Work-study: Money that students earn by working part-time at the school; most of the funds come through the Federal Work-Study Program.

SOURCE: National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA); research by PAT CARR

How to apply

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year to see if you qualify. The form asks about family size, income, assets (excluding equity in home).
- If you are over 24 or married or have a child, or meet several other criteria, you may apply independently, without reporting family's assets.
- Some schools require supplemental application forms. Check with the financial aid administrator.

For more information: Call NASFAA at (202) 785-0453

Next week: Private sources for college aid

5/20/97

Knight-Ridder Tribune/QUINN TIAN

you rack up."

And it's never too late. There are scholarships for ninth-, tenth- and eleventh-graders, as well as for those already in college, he noted.

If you're in the hunt, here are more of his tips:

■ DON'T SKIP THE SMALL STUFF.

Even it's only \$100, apply. Students tend to scoff at small scholarships, but they can add up.

For every \$100 you might win, that's \$100 less you'll have to borrow, said Kantrowitz. On the average student loan, he said, you'll pay nearly \$2 for every dollar borrowed.

Don't overlook small, local scholarships: Rotary, veterans groups, fraternal organizations, PTAs, community groups, local sororities.

Quinn followed that route himself. Of his 22 scholarships, 13 are local, including those from an African-American sorority, a Jewish foundation, SAFE Credit Union and the Orangevale Rotary Club. They've ranged from \$500 to \$4,000.

■ DON'T FREAK ON THE ESSAY.

Whether they want one paragraph or several pages, most scholarship applications require some sort of written words. And often the topics tend to be similar: How have you helped improve your community? Describe a pivotal event in your life. What have been your extracurricular roles outside of school?

"It isn't as much work as it seems. The first few will take maybe one hour per scholarship," says Kantrowitz. "But after you do your first half-dozen, you can adapt one essay to the next one. So instead of taking one hour to write an essay, you're taking 20 minutes."

Quinn found that he could reuse some of his essay topics because similar topics kept popping up. (It helped that he also had a compelling story to tell about his monthlong volunteer job last summer in a poverty-stricken region of South Africa.)

But be careful. Kantrowitz has encountered applications where students re-purposed

an essay but forgot to change the scholarship name in their entry letter. (i.e. "I am interested in your ABC scholarship ...," when it should have been "XYZ.") Those kind of gaffes will instantly plop you in the reject pile.

■ PAY ATTENTION.

If the essay calls for 300 words, don't submit 301, says Kantrowitz. Be sure it's clean of spelling errors and grammatical mistakes. Don't rely on spell check.

Print out your essay and read it aloud. If you stumble on a sentence, chances are the scholarship reviewer will, too.

■ CLEAN IT UP.

Same as when you're applying for a job or even college itself, it's smart to delete any inappropriate online photos or posts. That means removing any YouTube videos, Facebook photos or blog posts that might put you in an embarrassing or not-so-favorable light. Google your name to see what comes up.

Kantrowitz recalls a student who recently emailed him, via

Facebook, asking for help with an application. The student's Facebook profile photo? A toilet.

"What does that say about him?" asks Kantrowitz.

The author, who has sat on several scholarship review committees, says that when it's down to three equally qualified candidates, the committee will definitely Google a student's name to see what pops up.

■ GPA ISN'T EVERYTHING.

The higher your GPA, the better your odds of winning. But there are many scholarships that don't require a 4.0-and-better GPA. Quinn, for instance, earned all of his scholarships with a 3.7.

"There are a fair number of scholarships that look for something other than academic talent," noted Kantrowitz, citing examples like the \$10,000 StuckatProm.com scholarship for the best prom attire fashioned from duct tape.

There also are scholarships for left-handers, for those whose last name is Zolp, for kids who've battled cancer. There are even "duck-calling" scholarships for students with the best duck-hunting whistle.

■ GET ORGANIZED.

Kantrowitz recommends getting a separate file folder for each scholarship. Create a checklist of deadline dates, paperwork requirements, etc.

Quinn's mother, Rhonda, said her son kept piles of scholarship applications on his bedroom floor, including mailing envelopes and transcripts. He also created two Excel spreadsheets that detailed each scholarship by deadlines, tasks and—eventually—winnings.

Some weekends, he would spend five hours filling out applications. "I'd just set aside chunks of time that still let me hang out with my friends and enjoy my senior year," said Quinn, who played on his high school's

Worried high school seniors

High school seniors who say they have done the following due to the financial crisis:

• **Considered** less prestigious colleges that may be more affordable

57%

• **Changed** focus from four-year to two-year college

14%

• **Decided** to get a job while in college

71%

• **Increased** time spent searching for scholarships

85%

© 2008 MCT
Source: MeritAid.com online survey sent to 50,000 high school seniors; 2,535 responded Oct. 3-10, 2008
Graphic: Judy Treible

lacrosse team and was involved with several campus clubs.

Ironically, Quinn says he didn't put nearly as much effort into applying for college admissions as he's done for scholarships. The college application process, he says, was "overwhelming." The business major applied to eight schools and was accepted by two, including his choice: University of Texas at Austin.

Winning \$22,700 relieves "some stress of the financial burden" of going off to college, he said. As a freshman, his out-of-state tuition in Texas will be \$31,000—without room/board or books.

"Because I won these scholarships," Quinn says, "I won't have to work my freshman year and can just focus on academics."

Beyond the cash, the scholarship process yielded unexpected rewards. "When I first started, I was really shy and stumbled during interviews," admits Quinn. But he gained confidence, learning how to answer interview questions and even acquiring some business etiquette skills like shaking hands. "And," he says, "it made me appreciate work and the value of a dollar."

Underwood to lead group of colleges, universities serving Asian American, Pacific Islander students

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam President Robert Underwood, Ed.D., has been named vice chairman of the board of directors for the Asian Pacific Islander American Association of Colleges and Universities, which was launched yesterday to help address the complex set of social realities facing students in the underrepresented and underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

Underwood will help lead the new national umbrella organization and advocate on behalf of all Asian American and Na-

tive American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions—minority-serving institutions designated by Congress that have at least a 10 percent enrollment of AAPI students and have a significant number of AAPI students who are Pell Grant eligible, among other criteria—to better serve the unique needs of the nearly 1.2 million AAPI students attending these institutions across the nation.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., APIACU supports AANAPISIs in a manner similar to that which the American Indian Higher Education

Consortium, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education serve Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities, respectively.

The mission of APIACU has four objectives: (1) To promote the development of member colleges and universities; (2) to improve the quality of post-secondary educational opportunities and access thereto for AAPI students; (3) to meet the needs of business, industry, and

government through the development and sharing of resources, information, and expertise; and (4) to support and lobby for the success of AANAPISIs through the development of programmatic activities of AANAPISIs.

"The University of Guam serves a student population that is over 90 percent Asian and Pacific Islander. This new organization brings national focus to the unique population we serve and allows us to collaborate with other institutions across the country to develop ways to enhance educational

experiences and provide additional opportunities to our students," said Underwood.

Serving along with Underwood on the APIACU board of directors are chair Mark Mitsui, president of North Seattle Community College; and co-vice chair Gabriel Esteban, Ph.D., president of Seton Hall University. Together they will work with APIACU president and CEO Ruby G. Moy to lead the organization.

The idea to develop APIACU was presented last year during the first annual higher education summit held by

the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund—the nation's largest nonprofit organization devoted solely to providing college scholarships for AAPI students—in which the group gave its endorsement to create a national organization of this kind.

APIACU was announced during the 2011 APIASF College Completion Forum: Strengthening Institutions that Serve Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. (**UOG**)

Life & Style

KNOWN FOR HIS SCRAPES AND HIS ATTITUDE

Shia LaBeouf says he's ready to grow up

By REBECCA KEEGAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Shia LaBeouf learned how to play with others on action-movie sets, which may help explain why he's often ready for a fight. One scrape last October during the filming of "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" at Florida's Kennedy Space Center pitted the young actor against director Michael Bay over a song.

With military and NASA personnel watching, Bay and his leading man were shooting an emotional sequence from the script's third act on a shuttle launchpad at Cape Canaveral. To put himself in a somber frame of mind, LaBeouf plugged his iPod into some speakers and started playing a wistful ballad, Feist's "Brandy Alexander."

"Yeah, it's a little feminine, but it touches me," LaBeouf says, starting to pepper his recollection with more expletives than are allowed in the PG-13 film. "I feel something when I hear it. ... But Mike doesn't want to listen to 'Brandy Alexander' under the rocket with 50 military dudes around."

Bay unplugged the actor's iPod, LaBeouf says, and replaced it with his own, cueing up the propulsive, orchestral "The Dark Knight" score. "I take him aside, I'm like, 'Mike, this is the most important moment in the movie for me. The crux of my whole character, my whole arc. That doesn't work for me, dude.' ... Now it's two dudes ready to kill each other. ... Spit's flying." According to LaBeouf, Bay left the set with the NASA/military entourage, and his director of photography finished shooting the sequence without him. (Bay declined to be interviewed for this piece.)

After working on three "Transformers" movies together, the 25-year-old actor says, Bay is "sort of my big brother. ... We're both very game, very passionate people. Sometimes it's not actor-director. Sometimes it's two dudes yelling over explosions. Sometimes it doesn't sound like the friendliest conversation. But we love each other."

LaBeouf is relating the story from a divey Middle Eastern restaurant in a Hollywood strip mall, a Lionel Richie song playing in the background as a waiter delivers his usual order—"my chicken thing with those crispy deals" and some steaming Turkish coffee. "I come here for the decor," LaBeouf says, gesturing at the mostly empty eatery's eight Formica tables. "There's candleholders. It's opulence."

Lean, shaggy-haired and smart alecky sometimes to the point of self-destruction, LaBeouf has little in common with the beefy, well-behaved heroes of many summer popcorn movies. On a good day, his off-screen candor merely gives some studio executives heartburn; on a bad day, it lands him in a bar fight. But he insists that he's finally starting to grow up.

LaBeouf, raised in L.A.'s Echo Park neighborhood, the only child of a Vietnam veteran and ballerina, is the first artist in his family to make it. He has been steadily employed since age 13, when he was cast as the wisecracking star of the Disney Channel tween sitcom "Even Stevens," and today his multimillion-dollar paydays support both parents in separate homes. (LaBeouf says his father, a onetime heroin addict, is now clean—"My parents are retired basically. He's painting again. She likes nature.")

LaBeouf was handpicked by executive producer Steven Spielberg to be the human face of the "Transformers" franchise, which so far has grossed more than \$1.5 billion worldwide; the third installment reaches theaters on 3-D screens Tuesday night, and opens wide on Wednesday. He was also the young heart of Spielberg's 2008 Indiana Jones reboot, "The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," fulfilling the kind of relatable adventurer role Richard Dreyfuss did in 1970s Spielberg movies such as "Jaws" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

"That's a gift and a curse," LaBeouf says, of being Spielberg's 21st century hero. "Steven introduced me to the world in a way. The man has been incredible to me. But the work that I've done with him, the character variation is not heavy. It's sort of all in the same vein. ... I've gotta anchor these movies that are in these outrageous worlds, and I have to be as tangible as possible. ... I have no problem with that, but I don't want to be there forever."

Inspired by a line of Hasbro toys from the 1980s, the "Transformers" movies depict warring bands of giant, sentient robots from the planet



LUCIAN CAPELLARO/MCT

Shia LaBeouf arrives for global premiere of "Transformers 3: Dark of the Moon," at the Moscow Film Festival on June 23, 2011, in Moscow, Russia.

Cybertron that can shape-shift into cars and other vehicles. LaBeouf plays Sam Witwicky, a reluctant soldier in the war between the benevolent Autobots and the evil Decepticons.

In the latest film, Sam has graduated from college and has a new love interest, Carly (Rosie Huntington-Whiteley). The Autobots, meanwhile, have learned of a Cybertronian spacecraft on the moon, and they're racing against the Decepticons to find it.

Critics love to hate the "Transformers" films, but that hasn't kept audiences away. The second movie, "Revenge of the Fallen," was rushed into production with a ragged script due to the 2007-08 Writers Guild of America strike and earned an abysmal 20 percent "fresh" rating on the Rotten Tomatoes website, yet still became the

second-highest-grossing film in the U.S. in 2009. "This movie's very different, more physicality, darker premise, more story line, clearer thought," LaBeouf says of "Dark of the Moon." "I feel very confident in it. The last hour ... is the greatest action sequence of Mike's career, which would put it on the same level as the greatest action ever made. ... The second movie we were making on the fly, and it was too convoluted."

Like the character he plays, LaBeouf has developed since being handed his first blockbuster. "He's grown as a person, as an actor," says "Transformers" producer Ian Bryce. "He's a man now."

In 2009 and 2010, LaBeouf topped Forbes magazine's list of Hollywood's "Best Actors for the Buck." According to the business journal's calculations, LaBeouf's movies earned an average of \$81 of profit for every \$1 a studio spent on the actor in 2010, and \$160 for every \$1 spent in 2009. LaBeouf has proved to be a good bargain for studios thanks to not only franchise films but also one-off thrillers like "Disturbia" and "Eagle Eye."

But since 2006's gritty adolescent story "A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints," LaBeouf hasn't played a lead role in an independent movie. That will change soon with "The Wettest County in the World," director John Hillcoat's adaptation of Matt Bondurant's book about a family of Depression-era bootleggers. LaBeouf is the youngest, most ambitious of three violent brothers—his siblings are played by Tom Hardy and Jason Clarke.

"When you're a racehorse and you've got 20 trainers, all the trainers want the racehorse to run a certain way," LaBeouf says. "What does the racehorse want to do? 'Wettest' is the first time they've ever asked the racehorse. I've been running for a team of people for a long time and I don't take any of it back. ... I've learned a great deal about a certain type of filmmaking. But I have ambitions toward another type of filmmaking that I haven't been allowed to engage in yet."

LaBeouf's driver's license was suspended for a year for his "refusing to take a chemical test.")

In February, police handcuffed the actor after he got in a fight in a Los Angeles bar. He was there with a group of his friends when another patron recognized him, LaBeouf says (again, no charges were filed in the incident).

"He was just being demonstrative, antagonizing me in front of a crowd of 50 or 60," LaBeouf says of his adversary at the bar. "My mother said it was below your dignity to engage in it. But there's something in a 24-year-old mind where you're in front of a lot of people you respect and love and you're getting ready to ship off and go do a movie about the most violent brothers in Georgia who sell moonshine and you're sort of rooting for a certain mentality and somebody approaches you and you're in the wrong thinking and you're drunk. I have no excuses. I'm not happy with it, but I don't think it's a calamity."

The same impulsiveness that inspired LaBeouf to ball his fists that night has also driven him to say some professionally reckless things, including telling reporters at the Cannes International Film Festival last year that he was unhappy with the fourth "Indiana Jones" movie.

LaBeouf says he has been warned by people he respects—including Spielberg—to watch his words in public and smooth some of his rough edges.

"The way Steven described it to me was, 'When Tom Cruise walks outside his house, he doesn't pick his nose. From the minute he leaves his door to the minute he comes back home, he doesn't pick his nose.' Now that's a certain way to live your life that I have no ambitions toward."

Not that Mr. Chicken-Thing-and-Crispy-Deals isn't polishing himself a bit, with the encouragement of his girlfriend, a Vietnamese-American stylist he met at a karaoke club in Echo Park.

"Pâte? A cheese plate? That's a very 25-year-old deal," he says. "I can get down with some fig jelly and some cheese on a cracker. ... She's having me try different things. I was scared of fish, 'cause of my upbringing, being Jewish. Gefilte can ruin your entire seafood life."

After "Wettest County," which the Weinstein Co. plans to release, LaBeouf says he isn't sure what he'll do next.

"There's this coming-of-age thing that's happening within me. I've come from family-fare, pop-culture, Steven Spielberg-safe, made-for-a-generalized-populace (projects), and I have these yearnings to do different things. Which way is this boy gonna go? I have no idea. ... I'm just reading and being patient now for the first time."

'Weird' Harley-Davidson exhibit has rare items

By CARRIE ANTLINGER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A new exhibit at the Harley-Davidson Museum is proof the company is about much more than its classic motorcycles.

An all-leather motorcycle made in Japan, rarely seen prototype bikes and a rocket engine that powered drone missiles during the Vietnam War are just a few of the items the company has dug out of its archive for "Collection X: Weird, Wild Wonders of the Harley-Davidson Museum."

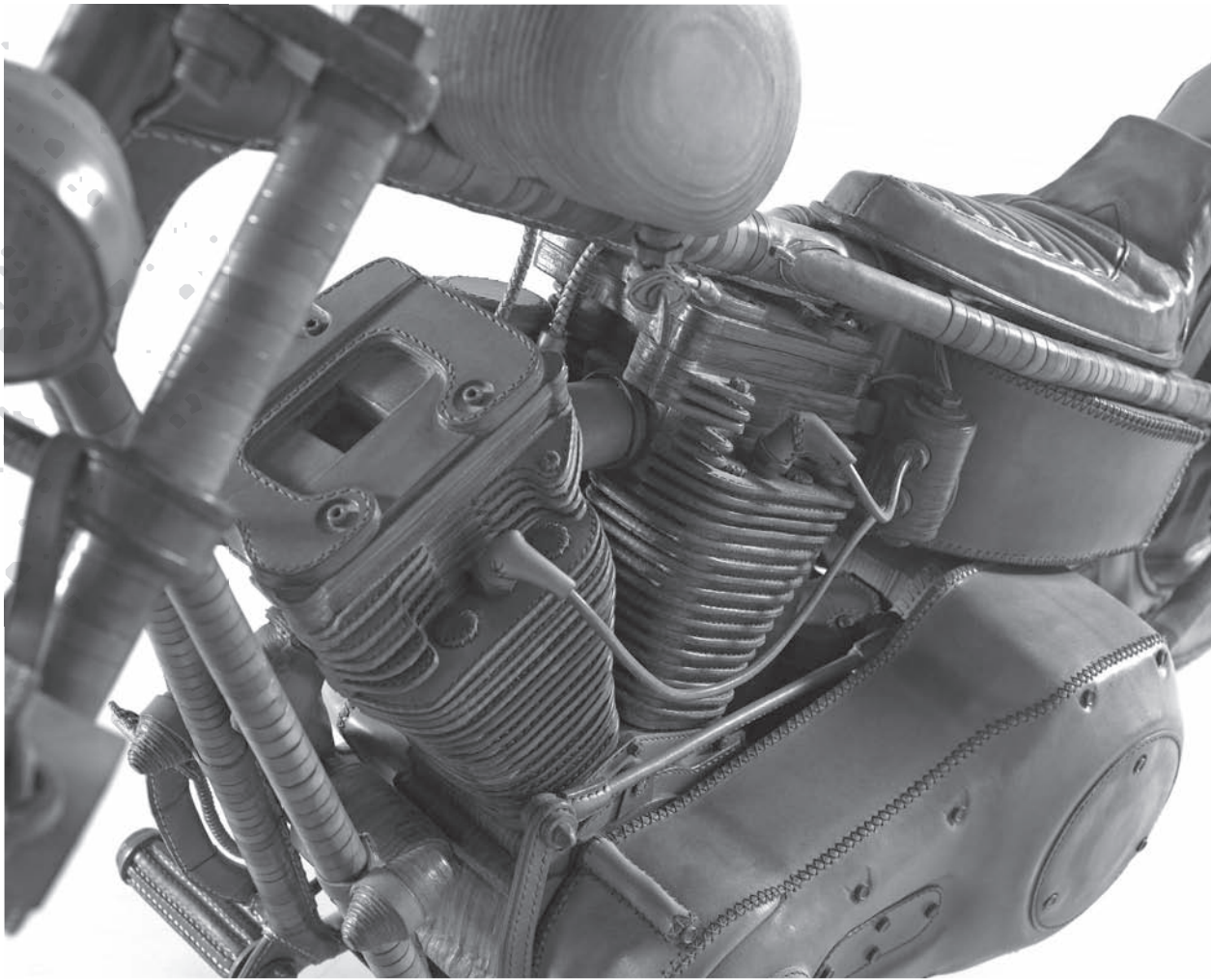
The museum's senior curator, Kristen Jones, said certain items were chosen to tell particular stories when the museum opened nearly three years ago. But many got left in storage, only to be glimpsed by museum goers on special behind-the-scenes tours.

It's from those tours that curators got the idea to put together the new exhibit, said Jim Fricke, curatorial director.

"You see the look on people's faces when you let them into the climate-controlled storage area and we begin to pull out this treasure," he said. "So we decided to play off the kind of mystery embodied in the kind of secret storehouse. That's where the theme came from."

The exhibit, which runs through Aug. 21, includes a 1920s leather aviator's facemask, a tiered "trophy cake" that displays racing trophies from the early 1900s and handmade kidney belts that riders wore through the years.

"There are a lot of different chapters, and there are chapters that aren't as well-known as others," said museum vice president Bill Davidson, the great-grandson of Harley-Davidson Motor Co. co-founder William A. Davidson, describing the history of the company where he's worked most of his life. He said just talking about the exhibit gives him goose bumps.



This photo provided June 22, 2011, by The Harley-Davidson Motor Company, shows a chopper made entirely from leather at the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee.

The vehicles on display highlight a lesser-known side of the popular motorcycle maker.

There's the all-leather motorcycle, a 3/4-scale replica that it took 20 craftspeople from a Japanese company specializing in leather products more than two years to complete. There's the Rikuo model, the first motorcycle manufactured in Japan, which was made by a company that licensed the tooling and design of a Harley.

There's also a prototype of a liquid-cooled motor-cross bike from 1978 when the company considered getting into that market, and "Project K," an experimental, three-wheel vehicle from the mid-1980s that was a cross between a motorcycle and a car powered by a Harley engine.

Harley-Davidson has 500 vehicles in its archive, as well as 150,000 photos and negatives, 7,000 pieces of clothing and accessories, and loads of market-

ing literature, manuals, business documents and personal mementos like journals and diaries.

The archive dates back to when the company started in 1903.

Davidson said walking through the exhibit brought back many memories.

"It's very rewarding for me to see these and remember back when we were actually testing them, riding them," he said of the vehicles on display. "Very exciting."

Book of Nelson Mandela quotations released

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A new Nelson Mandela book, slim, bound in black and set in eye-straining type, looks a bit like a bible or a prayer book.

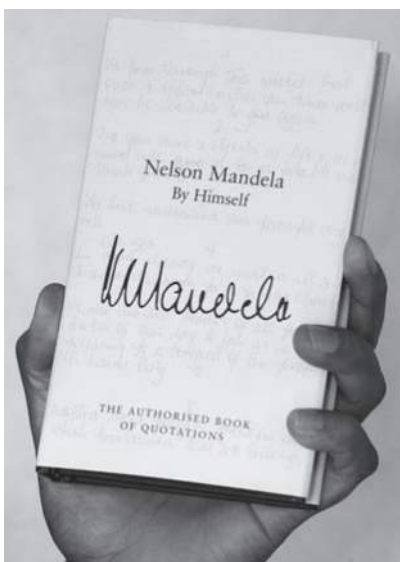
That's fitting, because the editors of "Nelson Mandela By Himself" brought something close to religious zeal to the task of choosing and checking more than 2,000 quotations to ensure the world gets the anti-apartheid icon's words right. The book was released Monday—days after U.S. first lady Michelle Obama got an advance copy signed by Mandela when she met him during a visit to South Africa.

Editors Sello Hatang and Sahn Venter work for the Mandela's foundation, which oversees charity and development work on his behalf and houses some of his archives. Hatang and Venter say the Nelson Mandela Foundation receives thousands of requests from researchers and others to confirm the accuracy of Mandela's quotes.

In an interview Monday, Venter said quotations frequently queried are among those collected in the book, along with others she hopes help show Mandela, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and South Africa's first black president, as a full human being.

And "you had to get in all the iconic quotes that everybody knows him for," she said.

The editors turned to speeches, note-



A copy of former South African president Nelson Mandela's newly released book, titled Nelson Mandela By Himself, is held up for a photograph in Johannesburg, South Africa, Monday, June 27, 2011.

book entries, recorded conversations and other material, some until now unpublished, for the book.

Hatang and Venter say in their introduction: "We can all honor Nelson Mandela by quoting him correctly and accurately."

The apartheid government once declared it illegal to quote Mandela. He is now, according to Hatang and Venter, among the most quoted peo-

ple in the world. But they say he often is misquoted.

For a book that would slip easily into a jacket pocket, "Nelson Mandela By Himself" has a daunting table of contents. There are 317 subject headings, from accountability to Zionism. "Prison" is divided into a further 26 headings, one short of the 27 years Mandela was incarcerated, with his musings on his release, visitors, even contemplating escape.

Victory is found between vengeance—"We had to refuse that our long sacrifice should make a stone of our hearts"—and violence—"Great anger and violence can never build a nation."

"We are striving to proceed in a manner and towards a result, which will ensure that all our people, both black and white, emerge as victors," from a 1990 speech to the European Parliament, is among eight victory quotations offered.

Hatang said his favorite quote is one in which Mandela speaks of learning from the silence of solitude while in prison "how precious words are and how real speech is in its impact on the way people live and die."

Hatang said Mandela "has taught us that before you say something, think. We can give life with what we say."

The book's emphasis on the uplifting and the pedagogical might lead some to

draw parallels to Mao's little red book. But we also see Mandela questioning his choices:

"I have often wondered whether a person is justified in neglecting his own family to fight for opportunities for others."

And there are flashes of his famous, self-deprecating humor:

"If only to emphasize that I am human, and as fallible as anyone else, let me admit that ... accolades do flatter me."

The quotations are arranged chronologically within each category, allowing readers a sense of how Mandela's ideas developed over time—or in some cases held firm, as with his loyalty to regimes in Cuba and Libya that supported his African National Congress during the struggle against apartheid. His early observations on Africa suffering under imperialism evolve to more recent criticism of the continent's homegrown tyrants.

On AIDS, a disease that has devastated South Africa, he becomes increasingly blunt as his urgency grows.

Here he is in 1992: "Many of us find it difficult to talk about sex to our children, but nature's truth is that unless we guide the youth towards safer sex, the alternative is playing into the hands of a killer disease."

And, simply, in 2005: "My son has died of AIDS."

Strong 'Spider-Man' demand makes producers smile

NEW YORK (AP)—The reboot of the "Spider-Man" musical on Broadway enjoyed a strong second straight week at the box office, leaving the two lead producers cautiously optimistic about the show's strength.

"Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" took in \$1.7 million for the week ending Sunday, a little below its \$1.9 million potential but well above the \$1.2 million the producers have indicated they need to reach to stay viable.

"So far, so good," said Michael Cohl, who, together with Jeremiah J. Harris, is the lead producer of the \$75 million musical that was retooled in April after a fitful launch in November.

The latest numbers, released Monday by The Broadway League, show the comic book musical was the third-highest-grossing show on Broadway after "Wicked" (\$1.83 million) and "The Lion King" (\$1.74 million).

It even beat the nine-time Tony Award-winning musical "The Book of Mormon," which took in \$1.2 million. Even so, "The Book of Mormon," in the much smaller 1,000-seat Eugene O'Neill Theatre, fetched a higher average ticket price of \$138.90 than "Spider-Man," which is housed in the massive 1,900-seat Foxwoods Theatre, and had an average ticket price of \$110.20.

"Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," which finally opened officially on June 14, saw its numbers improve over its first week, in which it pulled in nearly \$1.28 million over eight shows. Both weeks have had full houses.

Despite the good news, neither Cohl nor Harris were willing to speculate about the show's future or how long they think it will take to recoup its investment. They said they'll make any decision in the fall.

Cohl said that last week's numbers could have been even better without the promotions and discounts that had been promised months ago, which combined to drag down the show's total gross. He would not say if producers plan any future discounting.

"We have an audience-pleaser," he said. "The audience has responded."

Julie Taymor, the Tony Award-winning co-writer and director, was fired in March after delays, accidents, poor audience reaction and money woes turned the musical into a punch line.

Co-book writer Glen Berger and newly hired playwright Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, who has written comic books and for the HBO series "Big Love," toned down the story's darker themes, and expanded the romantic angle between Peter Parker and Mary Jane. The songs, by U2's Bono and The Edge, were edited.

Reviews by professional critics were still generally poor, though they acknowledged improvement over the earlier version. Harris said the show's best selling point is making young people excited to go to the theater and having a show that the whole family can enjoy.

"While we've gotten all beat-up over how it's not 'Next to Normal' or whatever, not everybody's in that market," he said, referring to the musical that explores mental illness and its effect on the dynamics of one family.

If thousands of young people enjoy the musical, "we will have accomplished something that has rarely been done on Broadway and will help create an audience for generations to come," Harris said.

Meyer's 'Host' heads to theaters in March 2013

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Twilight” author Stephenie Meyer’s next big-screen project has a release date.

Distributor Open Road Films announced Monday that the movie adaptation of Meyer’s apocalyptic sci-fi novel “The Host” will arrive in theaters March 29, 2013. “The Host” stars Saoirse Ronan (“Hanna,” “The Lovely Bones”) in a story of one of the last holdouts against an invasion by entities that take over human minds while leaving their bodies intact.

Published in 2008, “The Host” is Meyer’s follow-up to her best-selling “Twilight” series, whose final book is being adapted in a two-part movie adaptation, the first installment



In this June 24, 2010 file photo, author Stephenie Meyer arrives at the premiere of “The Twilight Saga: Eclipse” in Los Angeles.

debuting this November.

“The Host” is scheduled to

Landmark from ‘Twilight’ movies destroyed in Forks

FORKS, Wash. (AP)—A popular spot for “Twilight” fans to have their pictures taken in Forks is gone.

The facade of Forks High School came down this month as the building is demolished to make way for a new school.

The Peninsula Daily News reports a campaign to raise \$287,000 to save the 86-year-old facade raised only a few thousand dollars. It was one

site in the Olympic Peninsula town visited by fans of the teen vampire-romance books and movies.

A terra cotta cornerstone and lintel reading “Quillayute High School” will be preserved in the new school.

Many thought there was a time capsule in the old cornerstone. All they found was a badly deteriorated copy of a 1925 weekly newspaper.

begin shooting in Louisiana and New Mexico next February. An-

drew Niccol (“Gattaca”) wrote the screenplay and is directing.

Myanmar deports Hollywood star Michelle Yeoh

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The military-backed government of Myanmar has deported Hollywood actress Michelle Yeoh, who stars as pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi in an upcoming movie, officials said Tuesday.

The Malaysian actress arrived in the country’s main city, Yangon, on June 22 and was deported the same day because she was on a blacklist, a gov-

ernment official said.

The official, who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the press, did not say why Yeoh was on the list. But Myanmar’s repressive government has routinely rejected visa requests of journalists and perceived critics for years.

Suu Kyi spokesman Nyan Win confirmed Yeoh was deported but had no other details.

The Luc Besson movie about

Suu Kyi’s life, “The Lady,” is due out later this year, and Yeoh has said she hopes her portrayal of Suu Kyi will raise awareness about the Nobel Peace Prize winner’s story.

Suu Kyi, 66, spent most of the last two decades detained by the former military junta. She was released last year, just days after an election that her party boycotted and in which she was barred from being a candidate.

The vote was the nation’s first in 20 years, and in March, the junta handed power to a civilian government. But critics say little has changed and the new government is merely a front for continued rule by the army, which has been in power here since 1962.

Yeoh visited Myanmar in December and spent time with Suu Kyi for the movie, which was filmed in neighboring Thailand.

Singer Paulina Rubio arrested in Miami after crash

MIAMI (AP)—Mexican pop singer Paulina Rubio is charged in Miami with refusing to comply with police officers after a traffic accident.

According to an arrest report, Rubio’s BMW collided with another car Saturday near Miami’s Little Havana.

When asked to get out of her car, Rubio allegedly refused, cursed at an officer and said she was nervous and that “all of you Miami cops are abusive.”

The officer placed Rubio in handcuffs. The report states that Rubio screamed for help and threatened to call her attorney.

Police say Rubio eventually calmed down and apologized. She is charged with refusing to obey a lawful command, obstruction of justice and disorderly conduct.

The report says Rubio wasn’t taken into custody because she needed to breastfeed her baby. She’ll have to appear in court.



Rubio

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Sarah, Bristol Palin to sign books at Minn. mall

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Palin will be stopping by for the start of her daughter’s book tour. The former Alaska governor and Republican vice-presidential candidate will appear with Bristol Palin on Wednesday in Bloomington, Minn., at the Barnes & Noble in the Mall of America. HarperCollins Publishers announced Monday that the two will sign copies of their latest books. Sarah Palin says in a statement that she is “so proud” of her daughter and “thrilled to be joining her to kick off her book tour.” Bristol Palin’s memoir, “Not Afraid of Life,” came out last week and Wednesday is her first public event. Sarah Palin’s “America by Heart” was released last fall. HarperCollins imprints published both books.

Danny Pino, Kelli Giddish join ‘Law & Order: SVU’

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC has signed Danny Pino and Kelli Giddish to the cast of its long-running cop show “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.” Pino starred for seven seasons on

CBS’ “Cold Case” as Detective Scotty Valens. NBC said Monday he’ll step into the vacancy left by the recently departed Christopher Meloni, who played Detective Elliot Stabler. Fellow newcomer Giddish starred last season in NBC’s “Chase” as U.S. Marshal Annie Frost. Both will play detectives in the Special Victims Unit of the New York Police Department. They’ll join a cast headed by the series’ veteran star, Mariska Hargitay. The series will be entering its 13th season this fall.

Minn., NY teens win high school theater awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Teenagers from Minnesota and upstate New York have won the top honors at the National High School Musical Theater Awards. Ryan McCartan, of Minneapolis, and Shauni Ruetz, of Rochester, were named the best actor and actress Monday night following a national competition capped by performances at a Broadway theater. The 18-year-olds were picked out of an estimated 50,000 students from 1,000 schools competing for the honor, nicknamed

the Jimmy Awards after theater owner James Nederlander. Fifty finalists were given one-on-one coaching lessons and master classes from “Priscilla, Queen of the Desert” star Nick Adams and “Baby It’s You!” actress Beth Leavel. Celebrities who hosted the event included Harvey Fierstein, Tommy Tune, Nikki M. James, Aaron Tveit and Gregory Jbara.

Court denies appeal by Gibson’s ex over attorneys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California appeals court has rejected a bid by Mel Gibson’s ex-girlfriend to remove his attorneys from a contentious child custody case because she consulted with one of their law partners. Court records show the 2nd District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles rejected an appeal by Oksana Grigorieva last week without hearing oral arguments. The Russian musician had been trying to disqualify the actor-director’s attorneys because she consulted with their firm in 2008 on a custody issue related to her son with actor Timothy Dalton. The court refused to overturn a May ruling by a family law judge that Grigorieva waited too

long to cite a potential conflict of interest. The former couple have been fighting over custody of their infant daughter for more than a year.

Broadway’s ‘Driving Miss Daisy’ to go to London

NEW YORK (AP)—Will James Earl Jones be driving on the other side of the road? Producers of “Driving Miss Daisy” said Monday that Jones, Vanessa Redgrave and Boyd Gaines will reprise their Broadway roles when the production shifts to London this fall. The play will begin performances at Wyndham’s Theatre from Sept. 26 through Dec. 17, with an opening night scheduled for Oct. 5. David Esbjornson, who directed the Broadway production, will again direct. The play centers on a Jewish widow and her deepening friendship with her black chauffeur. The Broadway production was a virtual sell-out, was extended and earned back its investment. Redgrave earned a Tony Award nomination in the role. Jones will play a former U.S. president in a revival of “Gore Vidal’s The Best Man” on Broadway next spring.

Homeboy in jail says gang is no substitute for family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I’m a 16-year-old gang-banger looking at spending the rest of my life isolated in a little bird cage. Every day I ask myself the same question. Was it really worth throwing my life away? All I did was help a “homeboy” from getting hurt. I got caught and was convicted on eight charges that led to more than four consecutive life sentences. That ain’t no joke! The sad part of it is that the so-called homeboy turned his back on me when I needed him most. I should’ve pulled away when I could’ve.



Dear Abby

The main reason for this letter is to help parents and teens like myself who are choosing the wrong path to realize what you’re getting into while there is still time. Tell parents out there, if you see your kid is messing up in school, using drugs, hanging with the wrong crowd, anything that would lead to gang affiliation, reach out and help them while you still can before they’re in too deep. They (teens) turn toward gang life in search of the love they need from their family. Or they want to fit in and be cool.

To all the gangbangers who think you’re cool and being a gangster, get away from it while you still can. It may be fun at the moment, but it’s not when you get caught and you have to spend the rest of your life behind bars. There’s better things to do in life than hang around all day frying your brain from all the drugs and alcohol. Trust me, when you’re behind bars thinking about what you did, you’ll be missing your family the most. You think your homeboys are going to be there for you? Well, let me tell you this ... they’re not! I guarantee you that the only people who are actually willing to change places with you are your parents. Your REAL family. Do you think your homeboys want to do time for you? Hell, no!

I hope this letter helps some people out there. I just want to make a contribution to society before I get locked up in the dungeon forever. This is to show you not all gangbangers are evil and cruel. Life is short. Live it smart, not stupid. Now I can finally answer the question I ask myself, “Was it all worth it?” The money, the girls and all the material things go faster than you think and could all be taken away with the snap of a finger from the split second of a decision you make. It’s not worth your life.

HOMESICK HOMEBOY

DEAR HOMESICK: You write well and your letter contains a powerful message. I’m printing it without editing. Let your experience be a warning to others. I hope from the sad circumstances of your life some other young person will realize that a gang is a poor substitute for a family and the path to success does not stop at the street corner.

If a troubled young person is in school, he or she should talk to a counselor. If there is a church nearby, talk to a priest or minister. There are alternatives to joining a gang, but you need to reach out.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Last week a dear friend, Betty, passed away. She was a former neighbor and the kindest, gentlest, most patient soul I ever met. Although she was twice my age, we became good friends—proof that age knows no boundaries.

Two days after Betty died, I was on a work break. I had been thinking about her all morning and how she had influenced my life. Just then I saw a penny on the floor and picked it up. It was a 1992 penny—the year Betty and I first met. I knew right then it was a message from her letting me know she is OK. I’ll carry that penny with me always in remembrance of her.

Abby, this letter is my tribute to her, and a reminder to all who read it: Cherish your friends. You never know how long they—or you—will be around.

TOM IN SANTA MARIA, CALIF.

DEAR TOM: That’s true. And it’s why we should make the most of every day and spend each one wisely.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

vs.

GENEVIEVE LUANNE S. FITAL and FRANCISCA S. FITAL, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0185

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 019 J 80, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 925 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 019 J 15, dated November 12, 2003, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 03-2501, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 1, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, June 30, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor NMI Retirement Fund Bldg.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary

a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
i. May 19, 2011 Regular Board Meeting

II. Public Comments¹

III. Executive Session²

a. Legal Updates
b. Personnel
c. Other matters

IV. Reports

a. Chair
b. Board Committees
i. CIA
ii. CIP
iii. FPA
iv. SEEP
v. LIA
vi. Ad Hoc
vii. School Reform
c. Commissioner of Education
i. Financial Status Reports
a. Federal
b. Local
ii. Other matters

V. Unfinished Business

VI. New Business

1. Consolidated Grant Application for SY 2011-2012
2. Proposed PSS Technology Plan
3. Organizational Chart with Proposed Changes
4. Ratification of LIA Comment to House Bill No. 17-178, "To rename the Garapan/Chinatown Head Start Center the "Joaquina M. Rabaulman Head Start Center"
5. Resolution on Renaming of Garapan Head Start Center to "Joaquina M. Rabaulman Head Start Center"
6. Resolution on Renaming of Rota Jr. High School to "Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. High School"
7. House Bill No. 17-182: A Bill for An Act-To amend Title 1, Division 2, Chapter 5, Article 2, Section 2268(b), "The Education Act of 1988"

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIX. Adjournment

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each.
² Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
³ Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Williams sisters, Wozniacki all lose at Wimbledon



WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Walking away from Centre

Court, Oracene Price—mother and sometimes-coach to Serena and Venus Williams—shook her head after watching one daughter lose at Wimbledon, then the other.

Undeniably great as she is, even defending champion Serena found it too tough to make a deep run at her first Grand Slam tournament in a year after a series of health scares. And as successful as Venus has been at the All England Club, even she couldn't muster her best after missing nearly five months with a hip injury.

"I don't think their layoffs helped their rhythm," Price said. "They both seemed to be making the same kinds of mistakes. They were hit-and-miss, here and there."

They're both headed home after straight-set exits in the fourth round against far-less-accomplished opponents Monday. First, 13-time major champion Serena lost 6-3, 7-6 (6) to ninth-seeded Marion Bartoli on Court 1. Then, less than two hours later and before a Centre Court crowd that included Prince William and his new bride, Kate, five-time Wimbledon champion Venus was beaten 6-2, 6-3 by 32nd-seeded Tsvetana Pironkova.

Adding to the chaotic nature of the afternoon, top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki lost, too, although she's still searching for her first Grand Slam singles trophy, whereas the Williams sisters own a total of 20.

"Definitely not our best day," Venus said. "I think we both envisioned seeing this day going a little bit different."

And why shouldn't they have? After all, Venus and her younger sister combined to win nine of the past 11 Wimbledon titles, including Serena's victories in 2009 and 2010. They even played each other in four of the finals in that span.

"Well, I never came here thinking I would lose," said Serena, a former No. 1 whose ranking now will plummet to about 175th. "That's my attitude."

It's the first time since 2006 that neither Williams is in the Wimbledon quarterfinals; Venus lost in the third round that year, while Serena skipped that tournament because of a left knee injury. Of the 12 years that both entered the field at the All England Club, this is the first neither one made it past the fourth round.

"Obviously, it's not something planned," Venus said. "We rarely lose on the same day."

That's true: They last lost on the same day at a Grand Slam tournament on May 30, 2008, in the French Open's third round.

All in all, it was a topsy-turvy



Serena Williams of the U.S. leaves the court after being defeated by France's Marion Bartoli at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Monday, June 27, 2011.

day at the All England Club. Set aside, for a moment, what went on with the Williams sisters, and digest Monday's various other happenings:

■ Wozniacki still has yet to make it past the fourth round at Wimbledon after a 1-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5 defeat against No. 24 Dominika Cibulkova;

■ defending champion and top-seeded Rafael Nadal initially thought he broke his left foot and might have to quit late in the first set, then lost the second set, but eventually beat 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro 7-6 (6), 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4;

■ six-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer dropped his first set of the fortnight—against a man he was 10-0 against, no less—before righting himself to reach a 29th consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal;

■ 18-year-old Bernard Tomic of Australia became the youngest man in the Wimbledon quarterfinals since 1986, when Boris Becker went on to win his second title in a row;

■ 2010 runner-up Tomas Berdych went out in straight sets against 10th-seeded Mardy Fish, who never before reached the quarterfinals at the All England Club but now is the last American, man or woman, left in the tournament.

"Last ... Not what you set out to do," said Fish, who is 0-5 against Nadal heading into their quarterfinal. "It was, I guess, bad luck for the Williams sisters to lose. Unfortunately, I guess.

They'll be back, I'm sure."

They won't be around for the women's quarterfinals Tuesday, which are: Cibulkova of Slovakia vs. No. 5 Maria Sharapova of Russia; Bartoli of France vs. wild-card entry Sabine Lisicki of Germany; No. 8 Petra Kvitová of the Czech Republic vs. Pironkova of Bulgaria; and No. 4 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus vs. Tamira Paszek of Austria. It's the first time since 1913 that the last eight women at Wimbledon are from Europe—and, as it happens, eight countries are represented.

Sharapova is the only quarterfinalist who's won a Grand Slam title; her three major championships include Wimbledon in 2004.

After a day off, the men play their quarterfinals Wednesday. In addition to Nadal vs. Fish—assuming Nadal decides to play after getting an MRI exam on his foot—the matchups are No. 2 Novak Djokovic vs. Tomic; No. 3 Federer vs. No. 12 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga; and No. 4 Murray vs. unseeded Feliciano Lopez.

"I'm worried, for sure,"

Nadal said.

Neither of the women who beat the Williams sisters Monday has won a Grand Slam title, although Bartoli did reach the Wimbledon final in 2007—before losing to Venus. Pironkova, meanwhile, produced her best Grand Slam showing at the All England Club a year ago, when she made it to the semifinals by beating Venus—coincidentally, also by the score of 6-2, 6-3.

Pironkova also beat Venus at the 2006 Australian Open, yet somehow she clearly didn't make much of an impression on Mom.

"I don't even remember her playing her before. They said she lost to her here a year ago," Price said. "I didn't remember the girl. I'll remember her this time."

As well she should, because Pironkova befuddles the older Williams sister. On Monday, Pironkova played steadily, making only 10 unforced errors, half as many as Venus.

"Today's match probably looked easier on the outside, but it took me enormous amount of power to beat her," Pironkova said. "I kept pushing her. As I said, I played well. So she probably got a little shaky, and I took over."

Pironkova was 4-14 at tour-level events before her 4-0 run so far at Wimbledon.

Apparently, her game takes on a whole new depth on grass courts—and against Venus.

"It's kind of inexplicable why I manage to play some of my worst tennis against her," Venus said. "It's not like I'm intimidated at all by anybody on tour."

Perhaps, though, players are not as intimidated as they once were when facing a Williams.

Against Serena, Bartoli never backed down. Indeed, she took a page directly out of the sisters' playbook, moving a few feet inside the baseline to receive serves.

Serena insisted afterward she never noticed that, nor was she bothered by any of Bartoli's many eccentricities: gripping her racket with two hands for forehands and backhands; hopping on the balls of her feet between points; taking full-cut swings between points; swaying left and right before getting ready to return serves.

"It's a bit 'special,'" Bartoli said, making air quotes with her fingers. "But it's the way ... I'm feeling comfortable."

Over and over Monday, she'd whip deep groundstrokes to a corner, putting Serena on the defensive. Bartoli also served quite well, finishing with 10 aces and ending the match with a 103 mph service winner.

She's on a superb run right now.

In her three tournaments prior to Wimbledon, she reached the final at Strasbourg and the semifinals at the French Open on clay, then won the title at Eastbourne on grass.

"She should always play like this, and she would be in the top five, at minimum," Serena said. "It's like, 'Wow, where is this player throughout the rest of the year?'"

That Serena herself was at Wimbledon at all—and in the fourth round, to boot—was a testament to her skill and will.

Days after winning the title at the All England Club in 2010, she cut both feet on glass at a restaurant. She eventually had two operations on her right foot, then was hospitalized for clots in her lungs, then a gathering of blood under the skin of her stomach.

"I think I did really well, just being able to come back and play and win some matches and just really play tough. Even today I lost, but I was able to kind of hang in there," Serena said. "And I can only get better. And that can potentially be really scary, because I can only go up from here."

Revenue sharing still a dispute in NBA labor talks



NEW YORK (AP)—Commissioner David Stern agrees with his players: NBA teams need to do a better job sharing revenues.

They disagree over when that should happen, and what input the players should have in the system.

Players contend that a revenue sharing plan belongs in the new collective bargaining agreement. Owners say the plan is coming, but only after the CBA is settled.

"We're of the opinion that any shortfalls that they're suffering, that they can be rectified through revenue sharing," players' association executive director Billy Hunter said last week. "And while we've had some discus-

sions about revenue sharing, they have not disclosed to us an iota of what their proposed revenue sharing plan might look like, what the contribution would be coming from the owners of the respective teams, et cetera."

Owners will be briefed on both collective bargaining and revenue sharing Tuesday during a Board of Governors meeting in Dallas, with the CBA set to expire at the end of Thursday. Owners and players then plan to meet Wednesday and/or Thursday, perhaps giving them one final chance to avoid a lockout.

The union would surely like details of the board's revenue sharing discussion, but isn't likely to get much.

"Whether or not that

would precipitate a move by us beforehand or whatever has yet to be seen," Hunter said. "But, yeah, we would definitely like to know and see it. We'd like to not only see it, but to incorporate it as far as the collective bargaining in the CBA."

Not so, says Stern.

"We can't make the final push on revenue sharing until we know what the yield or not of the labor deal is," he said.

Stern has previously said the CBA and revenue sharing were on separate tracks, one needing to be completed before the other. Owners want to see what their savings will look like from the players before they commit to how much additional money would go to

each other, but players want to be assured revenue sharing won't be a tool to control salaries, such as by making teams stay below a certain spending limit to qualify for it.

The league has projected losses of about \$300 million this season. Players believe the number is lower and could be addressed if teams making money help those who aren't, and called for expanded revenue sharing in their initial proposal for a new CBA.

"When this whole process started, the first theme that we tried to agree on was that this needed to be a partnership. So if this is a partnership, we're working from that concept, then you have to be willing to discuss all of these pieces, including revenue sharing,"

Ex-Ray Gomes leads Reds over his old team



ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Jonny Gomes homered

against his old team to help the Cincinnati Reds to a 5-0 win over the Tampa Bay Rays in Major League Baseball interleague play on Monday.

Gomes, the former Rays' outfielder playing at Tropicana Field for the first time since becoming a free agent after the 2008 season, hit a solo shot during a two-run fourth that made it 4-0. Brandon Phillips, who had four hits and two RBIs, added a run-scoring single later in the inning.

Reds starter Mike Leake (7-4) went six scoreless innings with three strikeouts.

Rays starter Jeremy Hellickson (7-7) lost his fourth consecutive start, giving up four runs in six innings. Over his skid, Tampa Bay has been outscored 20-1.

Indians 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Orlando Cabrera homered with two outs in the ninth inning to give Cleveland a dramatic win over Arizona.

The win snapped a three-game losing streak.

Cabrera, who entered the game in the seventh inning in a double switch, just cleared the fence in left field after Arizona had tied the game with Kelly Johnson's RBI triple in the eighth.

Diamondbacks pitcher J.J. Putz (4-3) got two outs before giving up the home run.

Cleveland's Rafael Perez (3-1) struck out the only batter he faced in the eighth to get the victory. Chris Perez threw a scoreless ninth for his 19th save in 20 opportunities.

Braves 3, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Freddie Freeman hit a tie-breaking two-run homer in the seventh inning that lifted Atlanta over Seattle.

Mariners starter Erik Bedard (4-6) fooled most of the Braves lineup before trying to sneak a high fastball past Freeman.

Freeman's homer made a winner out of Brandon Beachy (3-1), who struck out nine in six strong innings before turning it over to the Braves' stellar bullpen.



Cincinnati Reds' Jonny Gomes heads for the plate after hitting a fourth inning home run off Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Jeremy Hellickson during an interleague baseball game Monday, June 27, 2011 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Bedard was a hard-luck loser, notching his 12th straight start giving up three earned runs or less.

Angels 4, Nationals 3, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Maicer Izturis hit a bases-loaded single in the 10th inning to give Los Angeles a win that spoiled Davey Johnson's debut as Washington manager.

Sean Burnett (3-4) gave up a one-out single to Alberto Callaspo and a ground-rule double to Peter Bourjos—his fourth hit of the game—before an intentional walk set the stage for Izturis.

Scott Downs (5-2) got the victory with a hitless inning.

The Angels were one out from winning in the ninth when closer Jordan

Walden gave up a first-pitch homer to Danny Espinosa—the rookie's third straight blown save.

Johnson, who takes over the Nationals after Jim Riggleman's abrupt resignation, is managing his fifth big league club at age 68 after stints with the Mets (1984-90), Reds (1993-95), Orioles (1996-97) and Dodgers (1999-2000).

Tigers 4, Blue Jays 2

In Detroit, Jhonny Peralta hit a tie-breaking triple in the eighth inning to lead Detroit over Toronto.

With one out in the eighth, Magglio Ordonez singled off Marc Rzepczynski (2-2). Shawn Camp relieved Rzepczynski and Peralta sliced a liner into the right-center gap. After an intentional

walk, Ryan Raburn beat out a double-play ball to drive in another run.

Victor Martinez drove in the earlier two runs for the Tigers, who won their third straight, while ending the Blue Jays' own three-game trot.

Detroit reliever Joaquin Benoit (2-3) picked up the win with a scoreless inning.

Cubs 7, Rockies 3

In Chicago, Carlos Pena and Aramis Ramirez each homered twice to lead Chicago over Colorado.

Ramirez hit a two-run homer in the first inning, doubled and scored in the fifth and homered leading off the seventh. It was his 24th career multi-homer game.

Pena homered leading off the fourth and added a two-run shot in the fifth for his 20th career multihomer game. Pena and Ramirez both drove in three runs.

Cubs starter Matt Garza (4-6) went 7 1-3 innings, allowing five hits. He struck out six and did not issue a walk.

Rockies starter Jhoulys Chacin (8-5) lost for the first time in four decisions, allowing season worsts with six runs, three homers and seven extra-base hits in five innings.

Dodgers 15, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Los Angeles responded to a growing off-field crisis with a defiant performance on the field, routing Minnesota.

The Dodgers filed for bankruptcy protection earlier in the day, blaming Major League Baseball for refusing to approve a multibillion-dollar TV deal that owner Frank McCourt was counting on to keep the troubled franchise afloat.

Chad Billingsley (7-6) combined with three relievers on Los Angeles' seventh shutout of the season. He struck out four in six innings.

Casey Blake had a home run among his three hits for the Dodgers, who set season highs for runs and hits (25).

Minnesota starter Nick Blackburn (6-6) lasted 4 1-3 innings, allowing eight runs as the Twins lost their sixth straight.

Padres 4, Royals 3

In San Diego, Ryan Ludwick hit a two-run homer for San Diego in the narrow win over Kansas City.

The Padres, coming off consecutive series victories against Boston and Atlanta, have won five of six.

San Diego starter Mat Latos (5-8) allowed three runs in six innings, and struck out six to get his first win in four starts. Heath Bell pitched the ninth for his 21st save in 22 chances, getting the final out after allowing consecutive two-out singles.

The Padres continued their domination of Jeff Francis (3-9), who allowed four runs in five innings. Francis dropped to 5-13 with a 5.65 ERA in 22 career starts against San Diego.

Past games no guide for US matchup vs North Korea



DRESDEN, Germany (AP)—After meeting in the first round at the last three Women's World Cups, the United States should know everything it needs to about North Korea.

Not even close.

Then again, nobody knows much about the North Koreans.

There's a definite air of mystery surrounding the Americans' opponent in their World Cup opener Tuesday night.

North Korea plays few games, just five in the last six months, giving opposing coaches little opportunity for scouting. None of the players play overseas professionally. Only two of the North Koreans have previous World Cup experience.

North Korea is also the youngest team in the tournament, with 14 players 20 or younger—including two 16-year-olds and two 17-year-olds—and just one who is 30. Only five players have 10 or more appearances with the

senior national team.

"It's really difficult when you don't see much of a team and you're not familiar with how they play," defender Ali Krieger said Monday after the U.S. training session at Rudolf-Harbig Stadium. "We might get some nerves because you don't know what to expect."

Goalkeeper Hope Solo said it's even hard to see footage of their games. The U.S. is basically keying off two recent North Korean games—against Germany and China—and figuring that's the lineup they'll face this time out.

"They are technical, they're comfortable with the ball, they're reading the game very well and I think they're one of the best teams in the world between the boxes," U.S. coach Pia Sundhage said. "But the game and the field's a little bit bigger. You have to add the two boxes."

The Americans have played North Korea three times, all at the World Cup. The U.S. dominated the first two meetings, winning each game 3-0. But North Korea has made it a priority to

improve its soccer teams, and the results are beginning to show.

At the 2007 World Cup, the Americans went down 2-1 before Heather O'Reilly scored to salvage a draw. The North Koreans won the Under-20 title in 2006, and were runners-up to the Americans—two years later. They also have won three of the last five Asian titles.

Alex Morgan is one of the few Americans who's seen the North Koreans up close recently—though "recently" may be a bit of a stretch. She was part of that U-20 team in 2008, scoring the game-winner against North Korea in the final.

"I don't remember too much. I just remember winning," Morgan said. "What I remember most is they're very technical, they love to play one-touch. They have some speed up top. I also remember they are physical, but aren't afraid to dive a little bit."

And don't expect Morgan and the North Koreans to organize any reunions while they're here, either.

Morgan said she and her teammates didn't do the traditional jersey exchange with the North Koreans, who quickly headed for the locker room after the loss, and didn't mix with other teams much off the field.

"They kind of stuck to themselves a little bit. But we did, as well, because we wanted to win the thing and we didn't want to have anyone stand in our way," she said. "We didn't want to make friends until afterward."

The short scouting report does have one advantage. With details about the North Koreans so scarce, there's little for the Americans to obsess over. Instead of trying to guess at what the North Koreans might do, or plan for every last formation and tactic, the Americans have spent most of their preparation focusing on themselves.

And there's plenty of material there. The Americans are the top-ranked team in the world and the defending Olympic gold medalists. But it's been a rough couple of months for the two-time World Cup champs, with a

stunning upset by Mexico in regional qualifying and losses to Sweden and England since January.

"You lose a couple of games, and everybody thinks it's the end for you," defender Heather Mitts said.

Of course, a lot of people wrote the U.S. off after it dropped its opener at the Beijing Games, too. The Americans responded with five straight wins, three of them shutouts - including a 1-0 overtime victory over Brazil in the gold-medal game.

"The team we have is just a fantastic team," Sundhage said. "We have experienced players. The soccer we're playing right now is pretty good."

Indeed, the Americans have looked loose and confident ahead of Tuesday night's game. A few of the players took pictures as they arrived at the stadium for training, and there was plenty of hooting and cheering during a one-on-one drill in front of the goal. They even mingled with fans on their way back to the team bus, signing autographs and jerseys.

"We like being in this position," Mitts said, "and hopefully we'll rise to the occasion."

Team B routs Team A in All-Star Game

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Team B romped Team A, 61-35, in Monday's QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup Invitational League All-Star Game held after the continuation of semifinal match between Mobil and Sonics at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The all-star game was rescheduled twice due to rain-outs and finally consummated last Monday.

The game was formatted as a friendly matchup under



The QQ Car Rental caging All-Stars pose for a group photo before their exhibition match Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

YVONNE

From Page 28

onds) and 200m (25.67 seconds) races and later won bronze medals in these sprint events.

Then in the 400m, she failed to eclipse her personal best and CNMI mark (57.14 seconds) after clocking in at 57.66 seconds. However, Bennett took the gold medal in the race she considered the most difficult among the three events she had in Samoa.

"I am still learning how to run that race," said Bennett, who is best known in the CNMI and Mi-

ronesia as a sprinter before she began doing the longer 400m race when she suited up for BSU's track team last season.

The 21-year-old athlete is a member of the Bronco's 4x400m relay squad that shattered BSU's 23-year-old record in that event. Bennett also represented BSU in the 400m race in the 2011 Western Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Hawaii where she set the new CNMI mark at 57.14 seconds.

"Overall, the competition in Samoa was very rewarding, as I was able to represent the CNMI

again and win medals for the Commonwealth. I was also happy to be reunited with my teammates and coaches even for a short time," Bennett said.

Joining Bennett in Samoa were Ryan Ichihara, Sylvan Rangamar, and Clayton Kenty and coaches Ron Olopai and Robin Sapong. The five CNMI delegates returned to Saipan last Sunday, while Bennett went back to the mainland.

"I am on mini vacation, visiting friends and will be back in Boise early July. For my next tournament, I plan on running at the world championships

but it's not confirmed yet. But as soon as I get back to Boise I will continue training over the summer and as school begins I will be going back to conditioning training to get ready for the next upcoming collegiate track and field season," said Bennett, who thanked her families and coaches for making sure she still gets to compete in regional tournaments even though she is also busy in collegiate races.

"My coaches and family members were able to make things happen for me. I appreciate their support very much," she added.

SMART

From Page 28

tion bid alive with a pulsating 78-77 win over top-ranked Sonics last Monday.

In the first semifinal game last Friday, Konflikt's Elmer Esdreton delivered 10 points in the clutch, but Smart Cagers' Pete Iguel and Errol Peredo teamed up for 15 points in overtime for the win.

Iguel actually set the tone early for Smart Cagers, as the do-it-all swingman scored seven points to stake his team to an 18-16 edge after the first quarter.

Konflikt's Jawn Joyner answered with eight markers in the second quarter to go with a pair of 3-pointers by his teammates to turn the tables on Smart Cagers, as Konflikt went ahead by two, 36-34, at the half.

Smart Cagers spread the ball around in the third period and reclaimed the lead, 56-52, entering the fourth and final canto.

Konflikt's Elgin Mangali nailed two 3-pointers for eight early points that put his team

right back in the game.

Smart Cagers came out on top from the free throw line in the fourth quarter, 12-8, but the game still ended up tied at 80-all.

It continued to be a nip-and-tuck ballgame in the extra five minutes before Iguel and Peredo teamed up to tow Smart Cagers to victory.

Iguel led all scorers with 36 markers, while Esdreton finished with 30.

The Mobil-Sonics tussle was first played Friday, but the second game of the evening's doubleheader only finished halfway on account of rain.

In the opening period, the Sonics managed a slim 17-16 edge as Lerio Pagarao paced the squad with seven points.

Mobil's Angelo Fernando then caught fire with a string of nine points in the second quarter to go with Jun Estolas' six markers as the duo conspired to give Mobil a 39-36 Mobil advantage at the half.

Just under two minutes into the third period, the game was called off due to rain and was rescheduled for Sunday, June 26. More rain on

Sunday forced the game to finally pick back up last Monday.

Monday's action started locked at 40-all with 8:17 left on the clock in the third quarter. From there Mobil pulled ahead, 59-51, heading into crunch time thanks to eight big points from center Larry Sharry.

Sonics' Pagarao amassed 19 points in the clutch, but Mobil's Estolas came up with just enough answers to hold off the late surge.

The game was tied at 72-all at the two-minute warning, locked at 74-all in the final 60 seconds, and knotted up again at 76-all with just 21 ticks on the clock.

Sonics' Pagarao then drew a foul and made the go-ahead basket, and Mobil immediately called time out to set up its final play.

Estolas waited at the top of the key for the right moment to break inside.

He slashed right up the middle of the lane and dished off a last second pass to Marvin Rabauliman, who nailed an acrobat shot from the weak side of the paint that made it 78-77. Sonics were

ta Fajardo won in the women's MTB championship course after logging 2:10:52.

Bikers in the MTB championship course raced up to Radar Station, turned right to one million gallon, went up to Kimikaze, Autobahn, and Grotto trails, Cowtown, and Banzai before heading back to Paupau for the finish.

In the MTB sports course, the Top 3 finishers completed the race in less than one hour.

Harold Balana placed first at 52:05, followed by Bob Orope-sa (52:47), and Erico Castro (56:25). Esther Ada and Sherly Camacho timed in at 1:30:54 and 1:44:22, respectively, to finish in the Top 2 in the women's division. The MTB sports course had the same starting and finish line, but after the Kimikaze trail, they headed back to Paupau.

Sunday's race was a fundraiser for Butch Sublemente's

trip to XTERRA World in Hawaii this October. Sublemente thanked PIC, Brabu Pharmacy, IT&E, Top Notch, Marpac, Traders Insurance, Tropex Garden, DFS Galleria, MVA, Taro Sue, Dynamic Massage, Triple J Fresh Marker, Joshua Berger, Stuart Smith, Paul Dujua, Romy Lanuza, Stan Good, Lito Mendoza, Rommel Bartolo, and Saipan Cyclers for supporting the fundraising race.

10-minute halves between top players selected from the nine competing teams.

Team B buried four 3-pointers in the first half to build a 24-19 margin at the break.

During the break, a representative from each team was selected to compete in a 3-point contest. Rollers Madness' Fred Litulumar drained five long balls in two minutes for first place in the competition.

Then Team B ran away with the game in the second frame as both squads elected to attempt slam dunks for the majority of the period.

Team B's Errol Peredo of Smart Cagers nailed four 3-balls for 16 points in the contest and was selected as the most valuable player after the game. Rollers Happiness' Brandon Aulerio led

Team B with 13 markers.

Other Team B players included Litulumar, Ivan De Vero and Zack Babauta of Rollers Madness, Smart Cagers' Marlon De Dios, Marlon Barbo, and Pete Iguel, Konflikt's Elmer Esdreton and Jawn Joyner, and Blue Haus' Rodney Sacramento.

Team A was made up of Aulerio and teammate Luizi Reyes, Sonics' Lerio Pagarao, Jason Bahillo, Mike Eclevia, Pedro Lizama, and Edwin Camacho, and Mobil's Jun Estolas, Gyles Ruloked, and Jorge De Guzman.

Team B 61 – Peredo 16, Sacramento 13, Barbo 12, Litulumar 8, De Dios 7, Esdreton 3, Iguel 2.

Team A 35 – Aulerio 13, Ruloked 6, Pagarao 6, Eclevia 4, Estolas 2, Lizama 2, Reyes 2.

Scoring by halves: 24-19, 61-35.

CHOI

From Page 28

onship matches.

Camacho won in the men's C singles finals against Jerome Malasarte, 22-20, 21-18. Camacho also came off a straight set semis win over Mahesh Balakrishnan, 21-12, 21-12, to set up a title duel against Malasarte, who topped Dick Kho in three sets in the other semis pairing, 22-24, 21-19, 21-19.

In the men's B2 singles finale, Espana needed three sets to thwart Vic Regis. Espana dropped the opening set, 20-22, but still secured the championship after sweeping the last two sets, 21-11, 21-16. Regis advanced to the finals after beating Chris Hilario, 21-19, 21-17, while Espana edged fellow youth player Ezekiel Macario in the other semis tiff, 21-17, 18-21, 22-20.

In the men's A singles finals, Galvez stunned the then undefeated Dick Guintu, 21-18, 21-18. Before the title match, Guintu swept his elimination round assignments and then extended his streak to five after downing Mario Diola in the semifinals,

21-13, 21-11.

Galvez had a tougher semis match, as he went the distance before ousting Ferdie Arago, 21-23, 21-14, 21-14. Galvez finished second to Guintu in the elimination round, as the former posted a 3-1 mark.

Besides the four singles championship games, three doubles title matches were also played in the last day of the Northern Marianas Badminton Association-sanctioned tournaments.

In the men's B doubles, the pair of Sam Jones and Joseph Santos swept Noli Santos and Regis, 21-19, 22-20. The duo of Elna Curate and Rose Lazaro also took only two sets to win the women's C doubles crown against the tandem of Windy Fernandez and Cris Obaldo, 21-13, 24-22. In the women's B doubles, the finals was stretched to three sets with Marylyn Montano and June Padua slipping past sisters Lani Bartolome and Lot Abuel, 21-14, 19-21, 21-16.

At the end of the tournament, NMBA recognized the Top 4 finishers in each division with no less than Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken handing medals to winners.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	45	31	.592	—
Boston	45	32	.584	1/2
Tampa Bay	44	35	.557	2 1/2
Toronto	39	40	.494	7 1/2
Baltimore	35	40	.467	9 1/2
Central Division				
Detroit	43	36	.544	—
Cleveland	41	36	.532	1
Chicago	38	41	.481	5
Kansas City	33	46	.418	10
Minnesota	32	45	.416	10
West Division				
Texas	41	38	.519	—
Los Angeles	40	40	.500	1 1/2
Seattle	39	40	.494	2
Oakland	35	44	.443	6
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	49	30	.620	—
Atlanta	45	35	.563	4 1/2
Washington	40	39	.506	9
New York	39	39	.500	9 1/2
Florida	34	44	.436	14 1/2
Central Division				
Milwaukee	44	35	.557	—
St. Louis	41	38	.519	3
Cincinnati	41	39	.513	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	39	38	.506	4
Chicago	32	46	.410	11 1/2
Houston	28	51	.354	16
West Division				
San Francisco	44	34	.564	—
Arizona	43	37	.538	2
Colorado	38	40	.487	6
Los Angeles	36	44	.450	9
San Diego	35	45	.438	10
Yesterday's Games				
Chicago Cubs 7, Colorado 3				
Cincinnati 5, Tampa Bay 0				
L.A. Dodgers 15, Minnesota 0				
Cleveland 5, Arizona 4				
San Diego 4, Kansas City 3				
L.A. Angels 4, Washington 3, 10 innings				
Atlanta 3, Seattle 1				
Detroit 4, Toronto 2				
Cincinnati 5, Tampa Bay 0				
L.A. Dodgers 15, Minnesota 0				
Cleveland 5, Arizona 4				
San Diego 4, Kansas City 3				
L.A. Angels 4, Washington 3, 10 innings				
Atlanta 3, Seattle 1				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

2011 NMBA Summer Youth Clinic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Men's B2 player Rodwealth Espana teaches two kids how to serve.



Youth players perform a fun drill during the morning clinic.



Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken, left, watches a participant serves.



Two players practice hitting the shuttlecock while others wait for their turn.



Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken shows participants the forehand and backhand shots.



Clinic participants cheer for their teammates during a drill.



Northern Marianas Badminton Association member Macoi Aguda gives service pointers to the participants in the 2011 NMBA Summer Youth Clinic at the TSL Sports Complex yesterday.



Two participants in the clinic pose with Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken before resuming their badminton lessons.



Andrew Galvez, left, has a one-on-one session with a clinic participant.



Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken teaches a kid how to serve.

**Williams sisters,
Wozniacki all
lose at
Wimbledon**

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Ex-Ray Gomes
leads Reds over
his old team**

PAGE 25

28 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Yvonne delivers for CNMI

Choi clinches women's A singles crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hannah Choi was unscathed in the 2011 IT&E Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament and went on to claim the women's A singles championships at the conclusion of the month-long competition last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Choi swept the round-robin elimination with a perfect 6-0 record to notch the first finals berth in the women's A

singles. In the championship match, Choi was pitted against Angie Ito, who finished second in the field with a 4-2 card. The Korean player went on to complete a clean mark in the IT&E-sponsored tournament after a straight set win over Ito, 21-12, 22-20.

Three other singles title games were played Sunday night with Luis Camacho, Rodwealt Espana, and Andrew Galvez prevailing in their separate champi-

See **CHOI** on Page 26



Hannah Choi, seen here during her second round match against Angie Ito, won the women's A singles finals against the same foe in the IT&E badminton tournament at the TSL Sports Complex last week.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Yvonne Bennett, second left, poses with other members of the CNMI Team during the opening ceremony for the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships in Apia, Samoa last week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Yvonne Bennett traveled more than 5,000 miles from Boise, Idaho to Apia, Samoa for the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships and the long journey was worth it, as she delivered anew for the CNMI.



The Commonwealth sprinter made it to the finals of all three races she competed in, crushed records, and won one gold and two bronze medals. "The Oceania competition was a lot of hard work and

dedication, but it was very much worth it. I am happy with my performance, knowing that I gave my all in every race," Bennett said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The Boise State University track and field team member set new CNMI and Micronesian records in the 100m (12.52 sec-

See **YVONNE** on Page 26

Smart Cagers, Mobil set up title series

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Smart Cagers will square off against defending champion Mobil in the 2nd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup Invitational League best-of-three finals series.

Game 1 is set to tip off at 7:30pm tonight at the Garapan Basketball Court, right after a 6pm U12 exhibition game featuring players from the Rollers Basketball Club.

En route to the finals, Smart Cagers defeated Ali'i Konflikt, 96-94, in overtime last Friday, while Mobil kept its title-retention.

See **SMART** on Page 26

RELATED NEWS

■ Team B routs Team A in All-Star Game
Page 26



Smart Cagers' Marlon De Dios goes up strong for a basket against Ali'i Konflikt players in their semifinal game in the QQ Car Rental caging Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

70 bikers join Butch fundraising event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Seventy-riders competed in the muddy Butch Journey to XTERRA Hawaii Bike Race last Sunday.

The list included Nap Dizon, who completed the road bike division with a best time of one hour, 24 minutes and 25 seconds, just a second ahead of Willy Barbo. Aldrin Sta. Ana rounded out the Top 3 with his 1:24:50. Susan Marchitti ruled the women's division after clocking in at 2:06:54.

Bikers in the road bike category started the race at Paupau and then headed up to Radar Station, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai and back to Paupau for the finish. They returned to the finish line with their shirts and bikes covered in mud.

See **BIKERS** on Page 26



Bikers head to Bird Island Lookout during last Sunday's Butch Journey to XTERRA Hawaii Bike Race.

RICKY CASTRO